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Sport on nine pages

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20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,148 TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 1994

Islamic terrorists killed, but all 170 passengers rescued after 15-minute gun battle

French police storm hijack jet

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MARSEILLES

FRENCH anti-terrorist police yesterday stormed the hijacked Air France airbus at Marseilles airport, killing the four terrorists who seized the jet in Algiers on Christmas Eve and rescuing all 170 people aboard alive.

The four terrorists of the Algerian Islamic Armed Group (GIA) died in a textbook assault as night fell on the waterside airport, 14 hours after the aircraft had landed from Algiers. In a battle that lasted some 15 minutes men from the GIGN Unit of the gendarmerie fought the terrorists aboard the crowded airliner parked only yards from the control tower.

Thirteen passengers were wounded or injured in the mêlée and the evacuation. Three crew, including the captain, were injured, and nine gendarmes, one seriously.

Within an hour of the assault, which ended a 56-hour ordeal for the passengers, Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, hailed the "exemplary conditions, the courage and efficiency of the operation". Taking full responsibility for the decision to mount the assault M Balladur said: "France will fight terrorism inexorably and will not yield to blackmail wherever it comes from."

The operation was authorised early in the day by M Balladur and run by a team based in the control tower, headed by Hubert Blanc, the regional prefect of Marseilles. The order to attack came after the hijackers opened fire on the control tower.

The attack began when the black-garbed commandos approached the aircraft from behind and prised open the rear doors on both sides. Squads of GIGN men leapt from buses and entered the plane, throwing stun grenades and racing to the front where all four hijackers were stationed. They burst into the cockpit where the captain was being held and in a firefight killed the terrorist chief.

Crew leapt out of the broken windows of the aircraft flight deck, as some 50 passengers slid down the emergency exit chutes, some of them sustaining injuries.

Ambulances took injured and exhausted passengers to Marseilles hospitals as police checked the identities of those on board in case terrorists were hiding among them.

The operation marks a triumph for the policy of M Balladur and in particular of Charles Pasqua, the hardline Interior Minister, who has been waging a highly personal war against Muslim extremists and those from Algeria in particular. M Pasqua said he considered the operation a great success "given the risks that we were running".

Passengers last night relived the horror of their ordeal as they sipped coffee with police who helped rescue them. They spoke of the politeness of the young hijackers.

"They were incredibly kind. Butter would not have melted in their mouths," said Said Kherbouche, 57, a French citizen of Algerian origin. "You would have taken them for Air France stewards, they were so well dressed."

Passengers said the hijackers had attempted to indoctrinate them with the ideals of their cause. Danina Mansur, who stayed on board with her husband and two daughters after other women and children left in Algiers, said she and her girls had been ordered to cover their heads in keeping with Muslim law. "But they were very nice boys," she said.

Passengers said the assault took place with lightning speed. "One minute the door opened, there was a blinding flash, they yelled for us to get our heads down," said one of the 40 French hostages. "If I hadn't got it down a split second later I would have had a bullet through the head."

M Balladur said he had set two priorities when he returned on Christmas Day to Paris to manage the crisis. These were to demonstrate that France would not tolerate terrorism and to do everything for the safety of the passengers. He said he had told the Algerian government that France would welcome the aircraft which was seized while on the ground at Algiers on Saturday morning.

Three people were killed in Algiers including a French Embassy cook whose murder early yesterday morning forced the Algerian authorities to allow the aircraft to leave. The Algerian Interior Minister yesterday launched an extraordinary attack on the aircraft's captain, saying he had sabotaged a plan for releasing all the hostages on Saturday and accusing him of siding with the terrorists.

France has become the prime target of the Muslim extremists of the Islamic Salvation Front and the GIA, its more violent sister group. In a communiqué the GIA said it had mounted the operation to punish France for supporting the Algerian Government.

The hijackers had not made any clear demands except to be flown to Paris to hold a press conference. It was clear when they arrived at Marseilles that M Pasqua had no intention of allowing them to refuel and fly on to Paris.

Major Denis Favier, the officer who led the assault, said he had had to move very fast with an emergency plan because he was not sure of where the hijackers were in the aircraft. He had ordered his men to attack three points simultaneously, moving in from the rear.

"Most of the terrorists were holed up in the cockpit ... we were met there by automatic fire and grenades ... they opened the door from time to time to lob out grenades at us ... we had six wounded in the front of the plane ... that was the most difficult bit, it was out of the question we would let them out of the cockpit."



ERIC CANDE

French commandos storm the Air France Airbus at Marseilles airport yesterday after it was forced to fly there by Muslim extremists who hijacked it in Algeria

Pasqua victory in political conflict

The storming of the hijacked airliner has vindicated Charles Pasqua, the powerful French Minister of the Interior, who has consistently argued for a tough approach to Islamic fundamentalism while Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, has urged dialogue..... Page 9
Christopher Dobson, page 12

Blair backs plans to levy lifetime tax on graduates

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour Party is considering proposals for a graduate tax to help to pay for the escalating costs of higher education.

Under the plans, graduates would have to pay between £6,000 and £8,000 throughout their working lives towards the costs of their university education. The move, backed by Tony Blair, marks a significant shift for Labour and could jeopardise attempts to shed its high-tax image. It also risks alienating middle-income voters and leftwing MPs.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is looking at a number of options to help to fund an expansion in higher and further education. He is said to favour a graduate tax, but other schemes, including a more limited surcharge on National Insurance contributions, are also being studied. A paper is expected to be drawn up by the spring, which will go to next year's party conference before becoming policy.

Twelve months ago, Jeff Rooker, the former higher education spokesman, was sacked from the front bench after drawing up a paper supporting student charges. The document was thrown out by John Smith, the former Labour leader, after deep divisions within the party and concern about the impact on middle-class families.

When the idea was revived by the Social Justice Commission two months ago, Mr Blair indicated that he was keen to reconsider the issue. The commission put forward three options, including a National Insurance surcharge, but all schemes ended once the charges had been repaid.

Under the plan being looked at by Mr Blunkett, the tax would be triggered at a certain income level, expected to be much higher than the £14,500 now used for student loans. Employees would be expected to pay tax throughout their working lives, either through income tax or as a National Insurance surcharge.

Another option is confining the levy to higher-rate taxpayers only, but imposing it on all high earners rather than just graduates. This would be more risky electorally, but would raise more money. There has been no decision yet on whether the charges should cover maintenance and tuition

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Yeltsin offers to withdraw

President Yeltsin yesterday offered to withdraw Russian troops from around Grozny, the Chechen capital, and said it was time to end Moscow's military campaign there. He also said he was prepared to resume peace talks with Chechen leaders..... Page 7

Stewart breaks a finger in Test

England's tale of injury and illness on the tour of Australia continued yesterday when Alec Stewart, vice captain and reserve wicketkeeper, broke a finger while batting in the second Test. The injury will take three weeks to heal..... Page 17

Acrobat dies in fall

A circus audience of 300 saw an Australian high-wire acrobat fall 30ft to his death in an accident at Blackpool Tower circus last night. He had balanced on tubes above the ring as part of a speciality act at the end of the show.

Busy lines cut off free phone offer

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

AN MP has called for compensation for thousands of Mercury One-2-One customers who failed to get through on Christmas Day under the mobile telephone network's free calls promotion.

Newspapers, radio and television stations were inundated with calls yesterday from angry One-2-One customers. The £5 million free-call campaign was launched on November 8. Anyone who bought a phone between then and December 24 should have been able to make unlimited free calls anywhere in the world on Christmas Day.

However, some people yesterday claimed that they made hundreds of unsuccessful call attempts on Christmas Day but found lines constantly engaged. Some said they had been "cheated" and described the offer as a "con".

Andrew MacKinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, said he would be writing to Michael Heseltine, Board of Trade President, about the thousands of people who had been "enticed" into purchasing a Mercury One-2-One telephone service on the promise of free Christmas Day calls.

Alan Thompson, a spokesman for One-2-One, admitted there had been problems as the company had faced bigger-than-expected "network congestion". He said demand for the service on Christmas Day made it harder to get through, but he stressed that dissatisfied customers who complain would be offered "recompense on a case-by-case basis".

The promotion boosted sales of One-2-One mobile phones, but customers are angry that Mercury failed to provide sufficient access on a day which was always likely to be busy. The network had more than one million calls on Christmas Day and rates were about ten times the average for a Sunday.

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Looking back in affection on John Osborne



Osborne: "always there to hate whatever it was"

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TRIBUTES from the theatre world are pouring in for John Osborne, the original Angry Young Man and author of *Look Back in Anger*, who died of heart failure on Christmas Eve, aged 65.

Harold Pinter, playwright and director, said: "I admired him very, very much. I also was extremely fond of him. I thought he had a wonderful sense of humour. He was a really mischievous chap. He made me laugh a lot."

Playwright Arnold Wesker said *Look Back in Anger* inspired him to write his first performed play, *Chicken Soup with Barley*, in 1959. "[Osborne] opened the doors for all the succeeding generations of writers," he said. "His greatest contribution is to have brought a fierce intensity of passion to the stage. Very few writers had quite his depth of feeling. John cared about basic human values."

The first play directed by Jonathan Miller was Osborne's *Under Plain Cover*, but they later drifted apart. "He felt I was a trendy lefty," Miller said yesterday. "As he moved towards the Right, he had almost complete contempt for a whole group of people he thought were of the trendy Hampstead Left."

For his 60th birthday, Osborne reluctantly agreed to be interviewed by Miller for television, but the film was never used. "He had to be plied with extremely expensive champagne," Miller said. "He became more and more like the old Edwardian father he kept attacking in *Look Back in Anger*. That was what he always wanted to be. He was always wearing these 18-piece tweed suits. His fury in the 1950s was that he wasn't a rich Edwardian squire."

Sheridan Morley, drama critic of *The Spectator*, said: "He had this tremendous raging against the light. Whatever it was, John was there to hate it. We have to remember the power of the language. He wrote wonderful roles."

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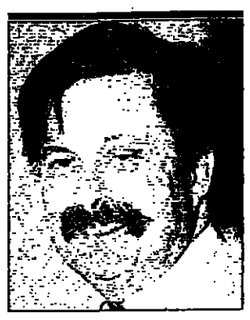
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BARCLAYS

AT2

Playwright who shattered the mould

John Osborne dared to show a mirror to society's ugly face



***Benedict Nightingale**, The Times theatre critic, salutes a man who excoriated the conventional and, with Look Back in Anger, found a voice that initiated a great era of English drama*

IF BRITAIN today has a theatre we ourselves think valuable, and the rest of the English-speaking world envies, a huge part of the credit belongs to John Osborne, who died on Christmas Eve. He may have gone on to write some ineffective, self-indulgent plays, but in 1956 he initiated what history will surely regard as one of the great eras of the English drama.

The impact and importance of his *Look Back in Anger* cannot be over-rated. Though the piece is still occasionally revived, most recently with Kenneth Branagh in the lead, it does not now seem very remarkable in itself. Osborne himself called it a "formal, rather old-fashioned" play. As a jobbing actor, he knew that its plot involved two of *the theatre's hoariest subjects*, misalliance and the eternal triangle.

But it was Jimmy Porter who was the triangle's apex and his voice that gave the play its force. "Angry young man" was the term coined by a press officer at the Royal Court, where *Look Back in Anger* first appeared; but it was hardly adequate to embrace Jimmy's fierce, funny denunciations of everyone from his wife's bowler-hatted brother, "the platitude from outer space", to bishops who described class distinction as a lie "wickedly fostered by the lower classes". Porter was a human blowtorch come to scorch the traditional and conventional.

He came from a lower-middle-class background, like Osborne, and had gone to what he called a "white-tile" rather than red-brick university. As such, he epitomised the restlessness and frustration of a new generation.

He also brought the smell of the kitchen sink to a British theatre that Arthur Miller, boggling at dozens of snobbish comedies and silly West End thrillers, had dismissed as "hermetically sealed off from reality".

Suddenly that theatre was "the place to be at". Those were the words of Tom Stoppard, one of several writers who would probably have never turned to the drama but for the excitement generated by *Anger*. As it was, 1956 saw the start of a renaissance that brought our theatre dramatists as various as Arnold Wesker and Harold Pinter, John Arden and Peter Nichols, the rightish Stoppard and the hard-left Edward Bond.

For all its ups and downs, that renaissance is with us still. The irony is that its originator failed to stay the course. *Déjàvu*, which played at the Comedy in 1992, was the first new play by Osborne seen in London for nearly 20 years. For many, it definitively proved that the Angry Young Man had become a grumpy old blimp.

The truth was more complex. For one thing, several of the plays Osborne wrote in the aftermath of *Anger* are worth staging still: *The Entertainer* (in which Laurence Olivier originally played a fading vaudeville star), *Luther*, *A Patriot for Me*.

A recent revival of *Inadmissible Evidence* at the National, with Trevor Eve in the role that made Nicol Williamson famous, re-emphasised that Osborne's tale of a lawyer in mid-life crisis was the subtlest, deepest piece he ever wrote. But subtlety was not usually his forte, and his compensating qualities, such as energy and incisiveness, began to desert him. In the 1970s, *Watch It Come Down* and *A Sense of Detachment* confirmed what *Time Present* and *Hotel in Amsterdam* had suggested in the late 1960s.

Increasingly, Osborne's plays seemed to consist of one nostalgically minded character wordily denouncing civilisation for the crime of being modern: and in rhetoric without the earlier zip and imagination.

Yet there was more emotional consistency to his work than some acknowledged. Though his diagnosis of what was wrong with Britain became more eccentric, his concern for its well-being did not change. Moreover, there was a theme that linked *Anger* with the most marginal of the later plays. The vital thing is to be true to yourself; you must respond and feel, or you will ossify and die.

Certainly, that idea came rollicking out of *Déjàvu*, his portrait of Jimmy Porter in cantankerous old age. The play consisted of long blasts of monologue, indiscriminately aimed at Australians, "yoof" culture, technocrats, gays, trendy bishops, American academics, vegetarians, a new generation of Royal Court dramatists, people called Debbie and Kevin, and his first wife's brother, who was now an MEP or "Minister for European Pricks".

But the old energy was there again, culminating in a glorious tirade in which Jimmy Porter promised to defy the smoke-police, the caring professions, the dietitians and "that hell's angel of check-out mercy, young Nurse Noylene" on his deathbed.

If any of these "creeping refuse collectors" called him a senior citizen, he added, they "would get one last almighty smack in their mealy effing mouths". The right valedictory, surely, from the feisty father of modern British drama, John Osborne.

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Kenneth Haigh as Jimmy Porter and Mary Ure as his wife in the original production of *Look Back in Anger*

Large and unpredictable softie who waged postal war of nerves

BY BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

SOMEWHERE in my archives I have a postcard showing two plump toddlers cutely paddling at the seaside. The message on the back is rather different. Below an address vaguely given as British Playwrights' Mafia headquarters are the words: "Safer for your health to avoid downtown Chichester. You to sing first, Fatso Morley next."

The identity of the anonymous writer was not in doubt. It was John Osborne, colonel and (I think) sole member of the BPM, an organisation devoted to beating up theatre critics. And whatever the effect of the doubtless similar threat made to my colleague Sheridan Morley, it left me feeling decidedly nervous.

The year must have been 1973 or thereabouts, a time when Osborne's art was in decline and I was saying so in the column I then wrote for the *New Statesman*. Maybe my reviews of his plays were unacceptably vitriolic. I certainly recall feeling almost personally betrayed by the growing blimpishness of the author of *Look Back in Anger*, a play that as a callow schoolboy I thought summed up all my confusions. But I did not expect Osborne to react, first by telling a national newspaper "the shit Nightingale" was at the top of his hit-list, and second by sending me mad postcards.

His friends said he was really a softie; but to me he seemed large and unpredictable. He had heckled Jill Bennett, one of his former wives, when she appeared on stage at Chichester. He was declaring it a patriotic duty to misdirect the foreign tourists littering our streets. He had recently played a gangster on television. On further thought, I considered it more likely he would try to humiliate rather than damage me.

So it almost proved. At the National a leg shot out as I walked down the aisle, and I jumped over it, looking back to see guess-who sitting innocently in his seat. What would be the next move?

With near-Osbornian eccentricity, I bought a meringue, thinking a Laurel-and-Hardy cake in the kisser might be an appropriate response to aggression: but it decayed unused in my raincoat pocket.

I never met the man, and he found other objects for his ire. One of the last was Peter O'Toole, who pulled out of the production of his last play, *Déjàvu*. But funnily enough, that provoked Osborne to write to me in an oddly forgiving way. In my archives I now have two other postcards, calling me "dear Benedict" and denouncing in libellous terms stars who, he said, thought it more important to read their children bedtime stories than appear in plays.

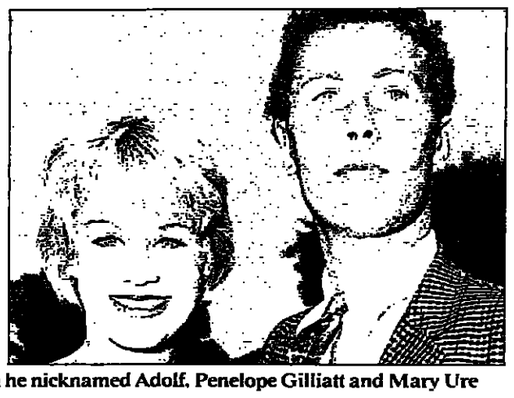
"Thank God for the Krauts and wogs," one card inscrutably ends. Osborne had changed — and not changed at all.

Wives and loves of angry young man who became old devil

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY







Three women loved, married and left by John Osborne: from left, Jill Bennett, whom he nicknamed Adolf, Penelope Gilliatt and Mary Ure

"WHY do I, and men in general, marry? It's the most poetic thing to do, a symbol of totalling commitment," John Osborne once said. He had an anthology of wives, from the actress he met while he was an unknown actor playing in repertory to Helen Dawson, the former drama critic who became his fifth and final bride.

Osborne, who parodied the gossipmongers of Fleet Street in his unsuccessful 1959 musical *The World of Paul Slickey*, featured frequently in their columns. His publican grandfather had an affair with Marie Lloyd, according to family legend, and Osborne inherited his weakness for beautiful women of the stage. His first marriage, to the actress Pamela Lane, was dissolved after six years. He met his second bride, Mary Ure, when she appeared in *Look Back in Anger*. They wed in 1957.

Five years later, Osborne created a scandal when he was cited as co-respondent in the divorce of Dr Roger Gilliatt, a Harley Street nerve specialist who was best man at Princess Margaret's wedding, from his wife Penelope, a film critic.

In 1962, Mary Ure spent 40 minutes telling a divorce court judge about her husband's infidelity with three mistresses, including Mrs Gilliatt. Osborne had been abroad on holiday with one of his lovers while his wife was giving birth to a son.

Osborne married Mrs Gilliatt in 1963. Their daughter Nolan was born two years later. The marriage was dissolved in 1967 after he left his wife for the actress Jill Bennett. She had been cast in Osborne's 1965 play *A Patriot for Me*, which the Lord Chamberlain described as "conducive to immorality" because of a scene involving homosexuals dancing in women's clothes.

He and Jill Bennett appeared to be a successful, happy couple. In 1969, she won the *Evening Standard* award for best actress while her husband collected the prize for best play. They bought a country home in Kent, bordering Sir Winston Churchill's Chartwell estate. The 25 acres included a lake and formal gardens and the couple also had an elegant property in Chelsea. *Pravda*, the Soviet newspaper, meanwhile accused Osborne, the former Angry Young Man, of being "ground down and corrupted by the bourgeois propaganda machine".

The couple's domestic idyll was interrupted by several misfortunes. In 1969, as they sat listening to a tape recording of *Antony and Cleopatra*, burglars broke in and stole jewellery worth £400, while the Osbornes remained oblivious in their living room.

In 1972, a BBC scenery painter burst into the Chelsea home, grabbed a breadknife from the kitchen table and ran into the lounge. The police were called by the cook. Also, the couple's names were on a list found with an arms cache thought to belong to the international terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal. When Osborne fell in love with Helen Dawson, a former critic who had become a programme compiler for the National Theatre, Bennett was dismissive of her rival: "I think she is an usherette at the National." She sent a fine blue shirt to her husband "with a note saying I'd like the contents of the shirt back some time". They were divorced a year later.

Osborne married his fifth wife in 1981. The relationship with Jill Bennett continued to haunt him, however. In 1986, he told an interviewer: "I call her Adolf which everybody thinks is in bad taste, but it's accurate. The word journalists always use about her is vulnerable, which she isn't."

After she took her own life four years later, Osborne wrote in his notebook: "Jill Bennett committed suicide yesterday. Except, of course, that she didn't, merely perpetrating a final, common little deceit under the delusion that it was an expression of 'style' rather than the coarse posturing of an overheated housemaid."

There were harsh words, too, for his daughter Nolan whom he had stopped seeing when she reached the age of 16. "I thought she was terribly trivial, commonplace and cold-hearted," he later said.

In 1992, he had to be helped off stage after collecting an award for lifetime achievement from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. His largely incoherent speech — blamed later on diabetes — included the remark: "This is a horrible profession which has never been held in such contempt."

Four die as plane strikes power line

Four people died when their light aircraft crashed near the end of a Boxing Day outing. The plane, carrying three men and a woman, struck a power line beside the church at Stapleford Tawney, near Ongar, Essex, as it was making its approach to Stapleford aerodrome.

Firemen cut two people from the wreckage but both were already dead. The other two people on board had been thrown from the aircraft on impact. Their names were not released.

A spokeswoman for Stapleford Flying Club said the aircraft had been carrying a club member and three guests who were returning from a rally over the coast at Dover. Electricity supplies to homes around the crash site were cut off.

BBC victory

Unofficial BBC figures showed BBC1 programmes attracting 52 per cent of Christmas Day viewers in peak time, while 38.5 per cent watched ITV. *EastEnders* was the most popular programme with 13.5 million viewers, followed by *Keeping Up Appearances*.

Mother at 57

A woman from Anglesey has given birth to her eighth child at the age of 57. Mrs Eileen Jones, a grandmother of 12 from Llanfachraeth, said: "Christian is the best Christmas present I've ever had, but I don't think I'll have another. Eight children is enough."

Boy, 7, held

A boy aged seven and four teenagers were held by police late on Christmas Day after a chase in which four police vehicles were damaged. The children were in a car stolen from Wednesbury, West Midlands, which was halted on the M1 at Northampton.

Knife death

A man was stabbed to death after trying to break up a late-night Christmas Day street fight outside a workingmen's club in Durham. Kevin Wright, 31, a steel erector and part-time club doorman from Newton Aycliffe, leaves a wife and a four-year-old son.

Buses destroyed

Ten buses have been destroyed in a fire at a bus depot in Colchester, Essex, that caused damage valued at more than £1 million. Ten homes were evacuated. A homeless man in his forties who often slept in the buses was arrested.

Child assaulted

A girl aged four was abducted on Christmas Eve from a supermarket toy department in Colliers Wood, southwest London, and sexually assaulted in a nearby park by a man calling himself Uncle Christmas. She was found in tears after the abductor fled.

Gunman shot

A man pushing an allegedly kidnapped baby girl in a pushchair was wounded by armed officers after shooting in the leg a police markswoman who confronted him in a street a quarter of a mile from the baby's home in Enfield, north London.

Festive wave

More than 1,000 people plunged into the chill waves of the North Sea during a Boxing Day charity dip. The bathers, most in fancy dress, joined a procession on the promenade at Seaburn, Tyne and Wear, then rushed across the beach into the sea.

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Graduates

Continued from page 1

fees, or the level of grant or loan to be set.

Mr Blunkett is said to be keen to expand the number of students in further and higher education and would see a graduate charge as an integral part of this policy. Labour sources argue that the current student loan system, under which students can borrow up to £1,375 a year for up to five years, is inequitable, favouring richer students, and is an administrative shambles. Last year about 50 per cent of those in higher education received loans.

Under the Government's system all students have to pay back their loan within five years, provided they earn more than 85 per cent of the national wage, or £14,500. Labour sources claim that the payback period is too short and the trigger point too low. They argue that the level of debt many of these students incur is between £6,000 and £8,000, which could instead be recouped over a much longer period through taxation.

Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett are keen to avoid any punitive charge which would dissuade students from higher education. Over the next few months Mr Blunkett is expected to argue the case for providing bridging funds to expand tertiary education until enough tax is raised to cover the costs.

In another controversial initiative Mr Blunkett is expected to modernise Labour's approach to grant-maintained schools. Over the coming months he will be consulting with interested parties about the best way to accommodate opt-out schools in a "local democratic framework".

Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett are trying to soften Labour's traditional opposition to such schools, while ensuring that the schools are not given preferential treatment. Mr Blunkett intends to scrap the central funding agency but ensure that self-governing schools still retain much of their autonomy.

He is expected to outline a phased programme in which grant-maintained schools will be made more accountable to the local community, but will not return to local authority control. A paper will be drafted after Easter with the aim of putting a new policy to the party conference in October.

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Overnight snow produces perfect Highland skiing

SKIERS took to the slopes in Scotland yesterday after heavy overnight snowfalls, topped up with regular showers throughout the day, afforded perfect conditions (Sarah Griffin writes).

Several hundred skied at Cairngorm and the Nevis Range at Aonach Mor. Activities at Cairngorm were confined to the lower slopes in the morning as winds gusted to over 30 mph. Skiers and snow-boarders headed for the upper runs as soon as the wind dropped.

Blizzards raged over the Glenshee slopes but there was still not enough snow for skiing. A spokesman said: "We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will not have too long to wait now.". Only the dry ski slope was open at the Lecht centre.

In Scarborough, residents headed for the seafront for the town's century-old collections for charity. The big event was a football match between fishermen and ships' firemen on the South Sands, followed by a raft race around the harbour for eight vessels.

Mud was the order of the day in Essex where hundreds waded through thigh-deep black mud for charity. The Maldon Mud Race, revived after a lapse of five years, took contestants across more than 200 yards of the River Blackwater estuary.

Motorists on the M25 faced a 26-mile tailback from junction 11 at Chertsey and junction 6, Godstone, caused by roadworks, accidents and traffic heading for Kempton Park races. A 12-car crash on the M6 near Walsall in the West Midlands caused long queues.

Shops and electrical retailers were among those to start their sales on Boxing Day but the rush was not expected until tomorrow.

Forecast, page 16



Castle bowled by public's affe

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Defiant hunt runs gauntlet of insults and hoax bombs

BY IAN MURRAY

IGNORING two hoax bombs, megaphones blaring insults and the threat of legislation to outlaw their sport, the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt chased over the Sussex Downs yesterday, one of 332 packs in Britain that honoured the tradition of a Boxing Day meet.

The hunt saboteurs were out early with their placards in front of the ancient Spread-eagle Hotel in Midhurst where the hunt was to meet. Two waiters in medieval dress stood with silver trays of port and sherry to hand round to hotel guests and members of the hunt as they arrived.

"Shame on the management of this honourable old inn for serving drink to these disgusting scumbags," Simon Wild shouted down the megaphone. "I'm not a disgusting scumbag," said a very large hotel guest clutching a very small glass of port. I'm an Australian."

"You can laugh because you have had your fat food," said Jane Kluckers, who now had the megaphone. "These poor animals get chased by these scumbags and have to work hard for their food. You don't know what it is like to be chased for three hours. Even those of you who fought in the war do not know the courage of these animals."

"Scum, scum," chanted the group of 30 saboteurs as the first huntsman arrived on a skittish mare called Moo. She bucked and bridled unhappily as her rider Anthony Langdale took her past the placards and blaring hunting horns into the inn yard. The crowd of 50 hunt supporters and hotel guests clapped him in.

"I don't mind what these people say," said Mr Langdale, a member of the hunt committee. "It's what they do that is so objectionable." On Christmas Day Moo's stable received a gaily-wrapped parcel. The army bomb squad was called in to destroy it along with a second one at the hunt kennels at Cowdray Park. Both were hoaxes but had badly frightened the stable girls and kennel keepers. The rest of the hunt arrived with the pack to blares on the protesters horns. To chants of "scum" and "disgusting" they set off to Cowdray Park where the rest of the hunt waited. The protesters followed. "Get off that horse, you bitch," a young man shouted at a middle-aged lady. "You are not worthy to be up on an animal." A police inspector, in charge of the 20 men on duty, shepherded him away. "You miserable, selfish, wicked people," Mr Wild roared down the megaphone. "You've got a cabbage between your ears, the lot of you."

His oratory won a round of applause from the saboteurs.

Then the hunt set off for the downs and the saboteurs tried but failed to keep up. Some of the young men wore army surplus camouflage and heavy boots. By the edge of Cowdray Park golf club they conferred with four monitors of the League Against Cruel Sports. The hunt had moved on to private land and anyone following was in danger of arrest and criminal prosecution. League members were not prepared to break the law.

"We are here to take videos which will help convince Tory MPs to make this illegal," said Marian Lanhar, the League's Sussex representative. John McFall, Labour MP for Dumbarton, will introduce a Private Member's Bill on March 3 aimed at banning hunting with hounds and other field sports.

Ms Kluckers' van broke down and a shadowing police car went off to get help. "We've heard that the hunt has a jeep full of paras from Aldershot to provide security," she said. "Last year they used the Irish Guards," she said. Two hours later the hunt, still in search of a fox, arrived on a farm near Petworth to change horses. By then some had given up and started to ride home individually. "It was a good day's ride, never mind the fox, I've built up a tremendous thirst," said one as he rode away.



An anti-hunt protester on the Sussex Downs yesterday

Photograph, page 16



An Oxford Street bargain hunter shows Bank Holiday closing is no bar to eyeing the best buys

Shops curtail holiday and cut prices again for frugal buyers

BY ROBIN YOUNG

ELECTRICAL, furniture and DIY stores cut short the holiday and opened their doors again yesterday, beating handsomely the bargains they were already offering before Christmas. Some attracted queues on a rainy Boxing Day morning by offering special "early bird" reductions.

Despite reports that Christmas achieved a record spend of £20 billion, shopkeepers admitted there was more surplus stock than usual to shift in the January sales, many of which have been running since mid-November. "We believe many people postponed their Christmas spending this year looking for a little bit more saving," the electrical chain Dixons said. "We now have a lot of people coming into the stores buying each other belated Christmas presents at knockdown prices."

Comet was taking an extra £50 off the pre-Christmas price of some dishwashers and hi-fi systems, and £100 off televisions. "We have been waiting for this," said Martin Skues, from Holloway, north London, who was first in the queue at the Brent Cross store. "The family wore the last television out over Christmas. I just knew prices would have further to fall, so we waited until the holiday was over to splash out."

Comet, in Manningham Lane, Bradford, was "very, very hectic", with hundreds of shoppers cramming the store. Jemma Brook, a shop assistant, said: "We believe the 'feel-good' factor is here."

Rumbelows, which brought forward its January sale to mid-December in an effort to boost receipts, also had further reductions. "Everything is cut to the bone," a manager said. "The new year sales are going to be more competitive than ever."

At branches of the DIY chain Texas the lead offer was a Wrighton kitchen complete with appliances for £699.81. "We opened at 9am and sold three in the first hour, which made it well worth coming in early," an assistant said.

A manageress at Moben's Baker Street showroom in west London said: "The big advantage is that customers can park without any difficulty on Bank Holidays. We expect to be quite busy later today and over the new year."

Magnet stores were offering an extra 10 per cent off sale prices that had already been halved and a free dishwasher for anyone spending more than £3,000. "I know of five free dishwashers that have been claimed already," a spokesman said. "The sale is going brilliantly."

Many department stores around the country start their sales this morning, with big bargains offered in winter clothing, electrical goods and home furnishings.

Labour calls for checks on freed inmates as police hunt killer

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH powers to restrict the movement of violent offenders released from jail were demanded by Labour last night as police searched for a man wanted in connection with the murder of his former wife.

Alun Michael, a Labour spokesman, called for judges to be given the authority to impose restrictions on former prisoners in cases where they continued to pose a threat to their victims.

"At the time of sentence the judge should have the power to require that in appropriate circumstances the victim or the victim's family be kept informed of the arrangements for the offender's release and even specify conditions in rare cases where that is appropriate," he said.

Mr Michael said there had been a growing number of "worrying and frightening" cases in which offenders had posed a threat to former victims.

He called for the restrictions in the wake of the murder of Margaret Manning, 41, who was shot at her home in Abertillery, Gwent, early on Christmas Day. Police want to interview her former husband, Phillip Manning, who was released from The Verne prison in Dorset in October after serving 27 months for attempting to murder her in 1992.

Last night Mrs Manning's family and the organisation Justice for Victims criticised the criminal justice system for allowing her husband out of jail so soon. A close relative, who cannot be named for her own protection, said: "Something is wrong with British justice when this can be allowed to happen. Our Margaret would still be alive and enjoying Christmas if the legal system kept its word."

A spokeswoman for Justice for Victims said violent criminals should be kept in prison longer. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, insisted that in cases where an offender had completed his sentence the authorities had no option other than to let him go, even if they had reason to believe he might still pose a threat to his former victim. He said that if former victims were worried they should contact the police.

Detectives in Gwent believe Mr Manning, 41, a labourer, could be anywhere in the country by now. He was sighted in Kensington, west London, only 12 hours after his former wife was killed.


Manning: jailed for attempted murder

Mrs Manning was shot in the hallway of her home just after before midnight on Christmas Eve. A man burst into the house where Mrs Manning, 41, was preparing for Christmas with her new boyfriend Neil Jones, 42, and, after an argument, the woman was shot.

Her son, Daniel, 11, who was woken by the argument, cradled her in his arms as she died. After the shooting, the gunnman turned on Mr Jones, who suffered serious stab wounds to the head. Mr Jones is in hospital in intensive care, under police protection.

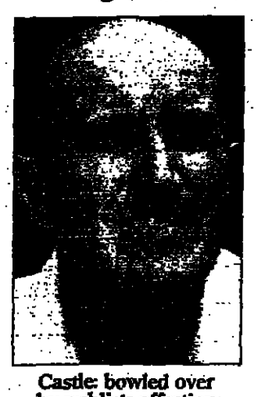
Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, leading the hunt, said that nobody should approach Mr Manning, who could be anywhere. Mrs Manning had known her former husband was out of jail because he had been in touch with her mother and her son. He said it would be impossible for police to give protection to every woman who had been involved in a violent domestic incident and added that they had no reason to believe Mrs Manning had been in direct danger.

Mr Manning was jailed for four years at Newport Crown Court after attempting to murder his wife in July 1992. He slash her stomach and arms with a knife after she left him. He had previous convictions for assault. Under the 1991 Criminal Justice Act, Mr Manning became eligible for parole after serving half his sentence and for automatic conditional release after serving two thirds.

Mr Manning is described as 5ft 6in tall, slim with greying hair in a pony-tail and wearing a black leather jacket, blue jeans and training shoes.

'He never imagined people loved him as they did'

Roy Castle named personality of year


Castle: bowled over by public's affection

BY ANJANA AHUJA

ROY CASTLE, the entertainer who fought a public battle against lung cancer, was honoured yesterday as Personality of the Year by listeners of BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. John Major polled the second highest number of votes, and Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa, was third.

Mr Castle, who presented the BBC1 programme *Record Breakers*, died in September aged 62. He blamed the illness on years of having played the trumpet in smoke-filled clubs. A vociferous campaigner against the dangers of passive smoking, he spent the last few months of his life raising money to build a lung cancer research centre. The BBC has decided to give the profits of its telephone poll to the Roy Castle Cause for Hope Appeal. BBC1 will screen a tribute to the entertainer tomorrow.

Fiona Castle, his widow, said on the *Today* programme: "I think he would have been the most amazed person of all because he actually had quite low self-esteem. He never imagined that people loved him as much as they did." She said her husband had been "absolutely bowled over" by people's affection once his illness became public.

Mr Castle polled 36,936 of the 130,560 votes cast. Mr Major received 27,838 votes, Nelson Mandela 23,738, and the Labour leader Tony Blair 16,067. The Euro-rebel MP Teresa Gorman received 13,185 votes. Peace efforts in Northern Ireland earned John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, sixth place with 12,796 votes.

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Timeshare scheme proposed

Oxford puts £1m price on chairs in fight for cash

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND JAMES MACKINTOSH

OXFORD University has put a £1 million price tag on its professorships as it tries to maintain the momentum of one of Britain's most successful fund-raising campaigns.

The Campaign for Oxford was wound up in October after raising £341 million in five years. But the university has established a new unit to ensure that the most important projects continue.

Professor Andrew Goudie, president-elect of the development fund, said the university had established a variable scale of charges for potential donors, offering a personalised professorship for £1.2 million. "We have more of these endowments than you'd think. But we're not totally mercenary."

The sponsored chair, often named after a research-based company, is a common vehicle for attracting private funding into higher education. Oxford has been one of the most successful exponents, recently extending the practice to the naming of whole colleges.

The university has been able to keep its fund-raising low-key until now. But colleges are facing new financial pressures, which may signal an end to the restrained approach.

Manchester College, for example, is aiming to raise money over the summer by renting parts of the college on a timeshare basis. The scheme will be discussed by governors next month.

The timeshare plan would provide visiting academics with a room and access to the library for the summer for a period of up to five years. The foreign professors would not be able to use the Bodleian Library and its collection of six million books, however, and the rooms are a far cry from Brideshead, having been built only last year.

Manchester is waiting for the formality of Privy Council assent before becoming a full member of Oxford University. The college's name will change to the Manchester Academy and Harris College, in recognition of a £3.6 million donation by Sir Philip Harris, the carpet magnate.

Dr Ralph Waller, the principal, was reluctant to comment on the timeshare plans in case



Sir Philip: college name change after £3.6m gift

other colleges copied the scheme. But he said: "Universities worldwide are having financial problems, which, according to our initial feelers, will make it difficult for them to afford to send academics here."

Dr Waller emphasised that, if the plan were to fall through, he would not be prepared to compromise the academic standing of the college by cashing in on the Oxford name. "It could definitely make money if we were prepared to accept ordinary members of the public, but we want to create a summer research institute."

The last Norrington Table, published in *The Times*, placed Manchester last in the academic league of Oxford colleges. Position in the table is very closely related to the size of assets. Other colleges have not been quite so bold as Manchester, but fund-raising has assumed a position of great importance in all of the poorer colleges. Yearbooks have become slicker, and most now employ full-time professionals as "development directors".

St Catherine's, founded only in 1963, has been at the forefront of new methods of squeezing cash from alumni: four students were taken to the United States in September to raise the money for new student accommodation.

In the largest sponsorship deal to date, Rewley House, the university's centre for part-time and mature students, changed its name earlier this month to Kellogg College. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, developed by the breakfast cereal company, has provided grants worth £12 million in recent years.

Oxford has been by far the most successful fund-raiser among British universities. Cambridge started later and does not include research grants or college projects in its total of £151 million.

☐ Almost 60 per cent of the students winning places at Oxford last year had the maximum possible A-level score, according to new admissions statistics. One student was admitted with less than the equivalent of three D grades, but eight out of ten places went to candidates with at least two As and a B.



Far cry from Bedford: Duffy Blackwood with one of the tankers that provide his living, and the mountains offering spectacular days out

Drain brain relieves the pain in Spain

FROM BILL FROST IN MARBELLA

AS HE celebrated Christmas on the Costa del Sol, Duffy Blackwood once again raised his glass to the inadequacy of Spanish sanitation. Blocked drains have been good to him.

Twenty-two years ago, when he arrived in the country, Mr Blackwood had no clear idea how to make a living. He had no intention to returning to Bedford, however. He dabbled in tool hire and pest control in Marbella before realising that "real money" could be made from clearing drains blocked by domestic rubbish and worse. "The local authorities here either couldn't cope or didn't mind the smell."

Under pressure from the community, not least the sizeable contingent of British expatriates on the Costa del Sol, Mr Blackwood, 50, seized his opportunity and secured his future. "I went back to Britain and bought a couple of tanker lorries with suction pumps. Once the first drain had been cleared, I was in — the market was cornered."

Mr Blackwood, who misses Britain "like you would miss toothache", then moved into private waste removal. Once word of his success was out, the offers poured in and he took on four British expats. When not cleaning street drains, Mr Blackwood and his men are to be found on the golf links. Greens and fairways flood with alarming regularity when a soakaway becomes blocked. "Horrible smelly pools soon form if we don't act quickly. We have to be extra careful. No one wants a fairway gouged up with lorry tyre marks."

Yesterday he and his wife took their camper van into the mountains for a short Christmas break. "It is a spectacularly beautiful country. I don't recall anything in Bedford that even comes close," he said.

John, 25, a former security guard from Battersea, southwest London, is similarly enthusiastic about life on the Costa del Sol. Each night he attends to "quality control" on the door of Maxim's nightclub in Marbella. He is uncomfortable with the term bouncer, he does not like violence and, given his size, usually finds a glare or a firm hand on the shoulder will pacify the most fractious Christmas reveller.

John misses little about Battersea. "Life was not really going anywhere. Here there are more opportunities. I have a Spanish wife, so Marbella is home now. I get the odd bit of nostalgia for London, but then I remember the crime, drugs being dealt on the street — Battersea was no place to bring up a family."

Crime and drug peddling are not **exactly unknown on the Costa del Sol, however. In a quiet bar at Estepona, two ex-pats enjoyed a quiet Christmas drink and recalled victories over British and Spanish customs investigators. The talk was of fast boats from Gibraltar and quiet beaches on the Spanish side.**

Terry's reasons for being in Spain were "a bit too delicate to discuss". His companion was even less forthcoming. Neither intends to return to Britain. Terry said: "All my mates are here. It's home from home."

Birdwatchers keep an eagle eye out as barn owls enjoy revival



Barn owl: modest recovery

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE biggest census of barn owls in history has been launched to track the fortunes of an elusive bird that was once commonly seen at twilight gliding along hedgerows.

Some 1,200 volunteers are being recruited to take part in a three-year survey, which ornithologists hope will confirm anecdotal evidence that these beautiful creatures are making a modest recovery after 170 years in decline.

The study will cover 1,400 blocks of territory, each 1.5 square miles in area and selected at random across the British Isles. Mike Toms, of the British Trust for Ornithology, who is in charge of the project, said: "We aim to have at least one volunteer per block and to extrapolate data for the whole country from their reports." Each winter the researchers will identify all potential barn owl nesting sites in areas to which they are assigned and mark them on a map. They will revisit the sites in July and August and note signs of occupation or breeding.

"Part of our task will be to see if regional differences in barn owl numbers can be linked to such factors as traffic density and the loss of hedgerows and rough grassland," Mr Toms said. "The survey will also enable us to test the efficacy of nesting boxes and other conservation measures."

A less systematic count ten years ago suggested there were then no more than 3,800 pairs of barn owls in England and Wales, compared with 12,000 in 1932 when the only other survey was done, and perhaps another 1,000 in Scotland and Ireland (including Ulster). If there was a golden age for barn owls, it was between 1720 and 1845 when more than six million acres of open fields were enclosed and parcelled into individual farms. The planting and digging of miles of boundary hedges and ditches and the opening up of woodland created ideal habitat for the voles, mice and shrews on which the birds feed.

After 1825, when pheasant-rearing started, gamekeepers with traps and new breech-loading guns killed increasing numbers of barn owls, which were more vulnerable than many other birds of prey because their nesting sites, in hollow trees and farm buildings, were easy to find. Persecution declined after the First World War, but an even greater threat than predatory gamekeepers was looming on the horizon: the arrival in the early 1940s of the combine harvester. This removed the need for the storage of grain in unthreshed ricks, and the rickyard, swarming in rats and mice, disappeared from the farm. Almost overnight barn owls lost a ready-made source of food.

Increasingly, barn owls have been forced to hunt for prey along the unmanaged verges beside roads, a hazardous pursuit for birds that fly a few feet off the ground. Up to 5,000 barn owls are killed every year by traffic.

While barn owls will never return to their former abundance, they are thought to have been helped in recent years by a string of mild winters, by tighter controls on pesticides and by the enforced fallowing of farmland under the set-aside scheme.

Another ornithological success story this year has been the sea eagle. Britain's largest bird of prey, after five young of the species were successfully reared in the wild. The chicks take the total number of wild sea eagles fledged in Scotland to 39 since the birds were reintroduced to Britain from Norway in 1975. In addition, ten young birds supplied by Norway were released into the wild by the Sea Eagle Project Team, run jointly by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Scottish Natural Heritage.

☐ Britain has been invaded by the largest number of northern bullfinches for 84 years, according to a report by the British Trust for Ornithology. The birds, which probably come from Sweden and Norway, are up to 15 per cent bigger than their British counterparts and the males are a much brighter pink.



Sea eagle: five chicks reared

MILLENNIUM LECTURE SERIES

THE TIMES · DEMOS

Creativity and Leadership by Howard Gardner

READERS are invited to the first in a series of The Times/Demos Millennium lectures to be held during 1995.

The inaugural lecture, Creativity and Leadership, will be given by Howard Gardner, a Harvard professor, who first made his name with the theory of multiple intelligences which revolutionised ideas about human potential.

In his lecture, Professor Gardner will be looking at the creativity and effectiveness in leadership, examining the characteristics of past leaders, such as Margaret Thatcher and De Gaulle, and setting out the qualities which make leaders successful in the future. Chairing the event will be Lord Young, Chairman of Cable and Wireless Plc.

The lecture will be held on Monday January 9, 1995, at 7.30pm, at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster, SW1.

Tickets, priced £8 (£5 for students), are available by completing the coupon below and sending it to Joanne Oliver, Town House Publicity, 45 Islington Park Street, London, N1 1QB.

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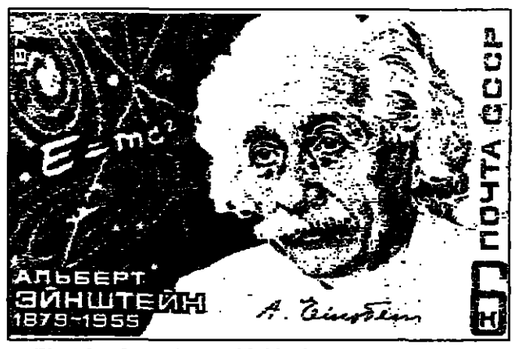
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Einstein, shown here, with his signature, on a stamp, signed a blackboard at Manchester University in 1921

University regains Einstein autograph

A PIECE of blackboard bearing Albert Einstein's signature is to be given back its pride of place at Manchester University 35 years after it was dumped in a cellar.

Einstein signed the board at the university, where he delivered his first British lecture on the theory of relativity in 1921, the year he won the Nobel prize for physics, and was made an honorary doctor of science. His signature on the bottom of the board was later cut out, framed and hung in the physics laboratory until 1960. However, when the laboratory was redecorated the great man's autograph was consigned to the cellar.

Douglas Broadbent, a lecturer, rescued it seven years later, days ahead of a rubbish clearance during which it would probably have been destroyed. Mr Broadbent, now 75, kept the memento on a wall in his home at Wythenshawe, Manchester. He has now handed it back to the university to be displayed once again.

"I found it stacked in a corner of the cellar with a lot of unwanted research equipment," Mr Broadbent said. "I found out it was scheduled to be cleared in a couple of days and the board would have been destroyed.

"I knew I had to do something quickly so I took it out and it has been hanging in my hall ever since. I always regarded it as custodianship rather than ownership. Now I am not so closely connected with the university it seemed the right time to return it."

Einstein, born of Jewish parents in Bavaria in 1879, was educated in Germany and Switzerland. He emigrated to the United States after the rise of Hitler. He died in 1955.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

King's gambits

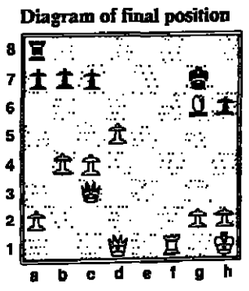
The Hastings tournament has been the scene of many slashing attacks with the adventurous 19th-century openings. One of the most notable was Norman Littlewood's win with this system in the 1963-64 competition. The Hungarian grandmaster playing Black is overwhelmed by a sudden and deadly cascade of sacrifices.

White: N. Littlewood
Black: Lengyel
Hastings, 1963

King's gambit

1	e4	e5
2	f4	exf4
3	Be2	d5
4	exd5	Ne7
5	Bf3	Nxd5
6	Ne2	Be7
7	0-0	0-0
8	c4	Nf6
9	d4	g5
10	Nbc3	Kh8
11	b4	Nbd7
12	Bb2	Re8
13	d5	Ne5
14	Ne4	Nxe4
15	Bxe4	Bf6
16	Nd4	gxf4
17	Qh5	Ng6
18	Rxf4	Bxb2
19	Rxf7	Bd4+
20	Kh1	Bg7
21	Bxg6	h6
22	Rxg7	kxg7
23	Bxe8	Qf6
24	Re1	Bf5
25	Rf1	Bg6
26	Qd1	Qc3
27	Bxg6	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



When the international master William Hartston repeated the King's *gambit against* Boris Spassky later that decade his opponent was better prepared.

White: Hartston
Black: Spassky
Hastings 1965

King's gambit

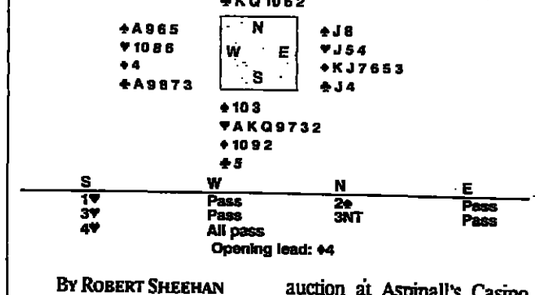
1	e4	e5
2	f4	exf4
3	Nf3	d5
4	exd5	Nf6
5	Bb5+	c6
6	dxc6	Nxc6
7	d4	Bd6
8	Qe2+	Be6
9	Ne5	0-0
10	Bxc6	bxc6
11	Bxf4	Nd5
12	Bg3	f6
13	Nf3	Bxg3+
14	hxg3	Re8
15	Kf2	Bf5
16	Qc4	Kh8
17	Nc3	Ne3
18	Qc5	Ng4+
19	Kg1	Qd7
20	Rf1	Bxc2
21	Rh4	Ne3
22	Rc1	g5
23	Rh6	Bg6
24	Na4	Ng4
25	Rh3	Qe6
26	Qc3	Qxa2
27	Nc5	Re3
28	Qd2	Rae8

White resigns

Winning Move, page 32

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South — **East-West game. Pairs**



S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	All pass		

Opening lead: ♦4

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The declarer plays low from dummy on the diamond lead. East plays the jack and South follows with the two. How should East defend?

Answer: The hand is from the St John's Wood Bridge Club annual Auction Pairs, played on December 14. In this form of the game, before the Off each pair is put up for auction. The successful purchaser then owns the pair. The money generated goes into a pool, which at the end of the tournament is shared out among the owners of the winners.

The purchasers are usually well-dressed men smoking cigars who, while not much good at playing the game, are shrewd judges of the horseflesh. Auctions like this have an amusing slave-market atmosphere. I remember asking someone at a backgammon auction at Aspinall's Casino why he had paid so much for an unreliable performer. The purchaser explained haughtily: "I bought him to set him free."

When my partner won the jack of diamonds at trick one he correctly deduced that my lead was a singleton. But he decided to return the three of diamonds.

When giving your partner a ruff it is usual to indicate which suit you would like returned — low cards indicate the lower, and high cards the higher-ranking suit (a "suit preference" or McKenney signal). In this case I decided East had a singleton club, and played ace and another club, allowing the contract to be made. I was afraid to cash the ace of spades lest it be ruffed. Had East returned a middle diamond (expressing no particular suit preference) I would have cashed my black aces to take the contract one down.

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Pig fat for lunch on the Death Railway: The Times pays its last visit to Christmas 1944

Beaten and starved, they prayed for freedom

By Bill Frost and Alan Hamilton





Harold Payne: young lieutenant, left, and at home in Kent. He weighed 14st when he was captured at the fall of Singapore, 7st when freed

BY CHRISTMAS 1944 Harold Payne had lost seven stone after suffering three years of regular beatings at the hands of his Japanese captors.

The young Royal Artillery lieutenant had been among the last to surrender when the Japanese stormed Singapore. Like the others compelled to work on the infamous Death Railway linking Burma and Thailand, Mr Payne, then 23, had begun to believe that he would die without seeing his family at home again. However, morale at the camp in the hills northeast of Bangkok was surprisingly high that Christmas. Prisoners working in their captors' kitchens had stolen some pork fat; the Japanese had authorised a concert party and allied raids on the railway were becoming more frequent. Someone at the camp had managed to steal the parts necessary to assemble a crystal radio set and the airwaves were searched for news of the outside world.

CHRISTMAS AT WAR



Tears come easily to Mr Payne when he recalls that Christmas. "I saw men beaten to within an inch of their lives for no reason. I saw friends starved and sick with no food and no medical treatment. Then there were the executions — prisoners caught after an escape attempt. But the padres were marvellous at keeping our spirits up. On Christmas morning 1944 we held a carol service. Even those without religion attended."

Under the watchful eye of the camp guards, the men sang hymns and offered prayers for peace. At the end of the service the PoWs sang the national anthem. "Those too weak to stand to attention were supported by the stronger among us. It was very important to show the Japanese that we had not lost our spirit."

After a morning's work in appalling heat, the men were allowed to make their Christmas lunch. "The cooks did their best to ensure it was a special meal — rice boiled in vegetable water and then shaped into rissoles with a little pork fat. Today you would call it pig swill, but then it was a gourmet dish.

"You must remember that we were so emaciated by then that a little bit of fat was the treat of a lifetime. When I was captured I weighed fourteen stone, when I was freed I weighed less than seven."

After lunch the PoWs held their concert party. Even though they had only rags to wear and no shoes, the men managed to fashion costumes. "I don't know how it was done, but putting on as good a show as possible was very important. The concert party was a way of demonstrating to the Japanese that we were not broken, we were still British," Mr Payne said.

That night Mr Payne, who had been an insurance clerk before the war, found a quiet corner of the camp and sat staring at the moon, as he had many times before. "Captivity and ill treatment do strange things to a man," he recalls. "I looked at the moon and thought of my mother and father at home and how much I missed them. I believed it was thought transference. I was somehow bouncing my message home to them off the moon. "Of course, I see now that it was all rubbish. But you cannot imagine how comforting it was then on that Christmas night to believe I was contacting my parents. It gave me such immense hope."

At his home in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, Mr Payne, who returned to the insurance business after the war, finds it difficult to talk about his last Christmas in captivity. His wife still wakes him regularly in the small hours when he cries out in his sleep, imploring his captors not to beat him again.

"I can never forgive the Japanese for what they did, not even at this time of year," Mr Payne said. "I thank God the Americans dropped the atomic bombs on them to end the war."

Life as a PoW was infinitely less traumatic for Herbert Fuchs, a Wehrmacht trooper who was captured by the Allies in Lille in September 1944. Mr Fuchs was shipped to England in November, and was imprisoned under canvas in a camp somewhere in Britain; he had no idea where. "One day we saw a van delivering bread to the camp; we saw the word 'Nuneaton' written on its side. It was our first clue to where we were — not that we knew where Nuneaton was."

The German PoWs were relieved to be out of a battle they were losing. Conditions in Nuneaton at Christmas were hard but not inhumane. "Germany sent us £1 each through the Red Cross; the smokers spent it on cigarettes; I spent my pound on cakes, cocoa and pasteurised milk in the camp canteen."

In accordance with German tradition, the prisoners celebrated the festive season on Christmas Eve. "The British guards found us some musical instruments and we sang carols. They sent us out into the surrounding farms to dig our own potatoes for Christmas dinner, and we supplemented that with a little corned beef and a few vegetables."

At the war's end Mr Fuchs, a Czech in the Sudetenland, had no wish to return to a homeland now occupied by the Red Army. He stayed in Britain, married an Englishwoman and now, in retirement at his home in Cransley, Northamptonshire, is admired in his adopted village and beyond for the quality of his allotment produce.

Leading article, page 13

Back to a billet for char and gunfire

By A Staff Reporter

WARTIME produced a rich slang, much of it originating in the services among men who had rubbed shoulders with Australian comrades or who had served in the Arabic-speaking Middle East.

Winco Conkey was pitching a woo with a Grable-bodied seaman, a real lush bint. He took the liberty bus to meet her at seven pip emma outside Aggy's and invited her to take a dekko at the brag rags of his Naffy and his Spam. With the bodysnatchers out after a Big Ben bang and a few civvies probably gone for a Burton, they adjourned for bottled sunshine, then back to his billet for char and gunfire.

He spun her an absolute cakey bar about how, returning from a wizard prang in Happy Valley, he had nearly bought it when he fell Harry Crashers at the beer lever, flying his Halibag straight into a Belinda, doing a brolly hop, and getting into trouble with the gaberdine swine.

Translation: a gentleman with a big nose claiming to be a wing-commander was walking out with a pretty Wren.

He took military transport into town to meet her at 7pm outside Dame Agnes Weston's Sailors' Rest House and invited her to look at his campaign medal ribbons. Ambulance crews were out after a V2 rocket attack and it appeared there might be civilian casualties, so they repaired for a drink, then back to his place for tea and crunchy biscuits.

He told her a whopper about how, returning from a raid on the Ruhr, he was nearly killed when he fell asleep at the controls, flying his Halifax straight into a balloon, escaping by parachute, and being reprimanded by headquarters staff officers.

Dunkirk hung over me like a black cloud

By Bill Frost

DAME BARBARA CARTLAND played out a painful charade over Christmas 1944. For the sake of her young children she put on a happy face, but her heart was aching over the death of her two brothers at Dunkirk.

Dame Barbara said: "In 1944 I suppose we had the sense that the worst was over and the enemy was close to defeat. But the memory of what had happened to them in Dunkirk hung over me like a black cloud. I wanted to cry my eyes out, but I was brought up to believe that no lady ever does that in public, even in front of her close family. One stuck to the routine: dressed up to the nines and put on a brave face." At her London home the servants were up early on Christmas morning. So, too, were Dame Barbara's three children. "After breakfast we all went to church. Religion was much more important then, so was the family; if only that were still the case. When we returned the turkey was almost ready. Although there was rationing one could always get whatever one wanted if one had enough money, and we did. There was champagne, too. I think my husband got it from his club." After lunch the family retired to the drawing room for the King's Christmas message. In the kitchen the servants, having finished washing up, prepared their own Christmas dinner.



Barbara Cartland



Vera Lynn

Dame Barbara recalled: "Christmas had been such a very special time, but the death of my brothers seemed to have ruined that. My comfort now is that they come back to me, or seem to. I see them for a second in the room I happen to be sitting in and they are both smiling."

Such a relief to have a proper home

By Alan Hamilton

DAME VERA LYNN'S abiding memory of Christmas 1944 is splashing out an astonishing £5 — at least £100 in today's money — for a rare delicacy, a fresh pineapple. For all her fame, the war had not been entirely kind to her. Dame Vera and her family had lived through much of the past five years in a half-wrecked house in Barking, east London. They eventually grew tired of living in the cellar to escape the bulging living-room wall that threatened to collapse at any moment, and the ceiling that gave a clear view of the stars.

"I was in a variety show at the Brighton Hippodrome in November. My husband Harry and I took the chance to look for a country cottage, and we found a house at Clayton Holt, nine miles from Brighton. We moved in November 1944; it was such a relief to have a proper home. I think, for the first time in the war, I had Christmas off. In previous years I had been singing with the Ambrose orchestra, and we had to do whatever gig came up. But 1944 was different: I had Christmas in my own home. We had 17 guests: my family, my parents and Harry's mum and dad, my sister-in-law and her two children, and various other relatives. The only one missing was my brother, serving with the RAF in the Far East."

Dame Vera had a record out, *I'm Sending My Blessings to Santa Claus*, which she recorded the previous April. "I can't remember what we had to eat for Christmas, apart from that pineapple but I remember that by the end of 1944 people were in a better frame of mind. We were beginning to think that the war might be coming to an end," she said.

How hunger turned us into a nation of black marketeers

By Bill Frost

WITH remarkable frankness Philip Game, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, admitted in his annual report for 1944 that rationing had produced a nation of black marketeers.

While there was no army of millionaire spivs in camel hair coats dealing in stolen food and petrol, many ordinary Britons defied the law without a second thought. At Christmas the temptation to use the black market was stronger than ever; the lean war years had left everyone hungry. "There is undoubtedly a large number of individual transactions in the black market," Mr Game wrote in his report. "Perhaps we do not realise that if we are prepared to accept without demur a bit more than we are entitled to, we are all to that extent black marketeers." There were no "super criminals controlling a vast organisation with widespread tentacles", according to the commissioner. However, there were thousands like John Jack Daniels, a 44-year-old café owner from Morden, southwest London.

Wimbledon magistrates fined him £20 for obtaining bacon "without authority" and soap "without a permit". Jenkins was told that "his behaviour was reprehensible, unpatriotic and, unfortunately, all too common".

Black marketeers made most of their money from once commonplace foods: eggs; bacon; fresh meat and, much more rarely, fruit.

Poultry and dairy farmers were tempted by profits eight and nine times higher than prices charged by a high street butcher. The mark-up on stolen petrol was even more attractive to unscrupulous traders.

Sometimes unwittingly, US servicemen played an important part in the black economy. Their largess — gifts of cigarettes, nylons, spirits and chocolate — was often harnessed by the profiteers.

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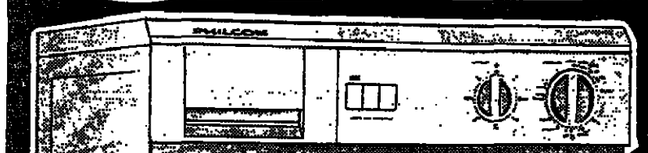
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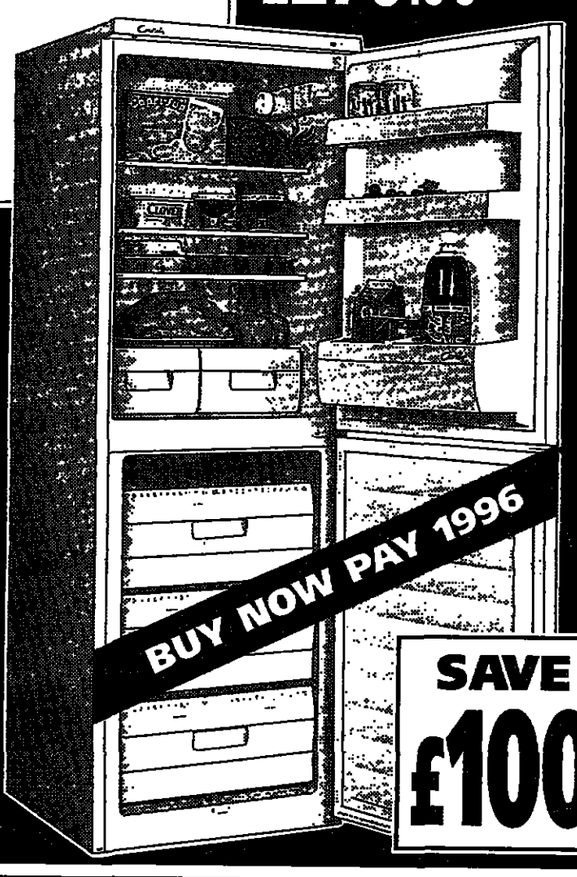
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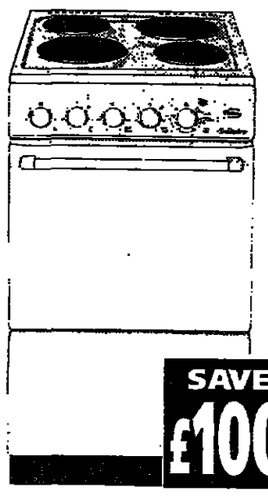
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Grozny hints at compromise as Yeltsin's troops get bogged down

Russians to seek fresh Chechenia peace talks

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

A NEW attempt to open talks with Chechenia's leadership was announced yesterday by Moscow's National Security Council, which is headed by President Yeltsin, as Russian troops remained bogged down and around the republic's capital, Grozny.

Mr Yeltsin had earlier said the "first stage" of Russia's military operation was coming to an end. He is due to address the Russian people about the Chechen conflict on television today.

The security council yesterday named a commission to negotiate with the Chechens. It includes Nikolai Yegorov, the Deputy Prime Minister; Sergei Stepashin, the Counter Intelligence Chief, and General Anatoli Kvashinin, commander of the Chechenia intervention force. The council statement proposed talks with "leaders of illegal arms formations", which presumably means the government of President Dudayev.

Before the council's meeting, Mr Yeltsin said it would "look at when we can wind up the participation of the military and go on to the second stage — forming administrative organs in the Chechen republic".

He implied that the Russian army already controlled Chechenia. Russian military leaders have said that the first task of the military was to surround and seal off Grozny, and they have claimed that this has been achieved. Military statements on Sunday said that up to 1,000 Chechen fighters had been killed in the fighting.

None of this is remotely true. According to latest reports from Chechenia, Russian troops have still not managed to capture the small town of Argun, just over seven miles east of Grozny, against which they launched an offensive on Friday. A second Russian column is still stationary about 28 miles west of Grozny, and refusing orders to advance. Its officers and men are becoming openly mutinous in their remarks to Western correspondents, in which they curse the Yeltsin administration and its intervention in Chechenia. The Chechen fighters remain determined and defiant, and there is no talk among them of surrendering independence as part of some political compromise.

Possibly in tune with the latest Russian suggestion of talks, there were no further Russian air raids on Grozny on Sunday night but four days and nights of repeated attacks have caused dozens of civilian deaths, many of them ethnic Russians, and left much of the city centre in ruins.

In Grozny, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen Vice-President, told the Interfax news agency yesterday that his government would no longer insist on Russian military withdrawal before talks could begin. He also said the Chechen government would consider confederation with Russia.

But there is only one man who really counts in the Chechen government: Dzhokhar Dudayev, the President. When correspondents raised the question of confederation at a press conference last week, he immediately ruled it out. Even Mr Yandarbiyev said confederation could only be between "two equal and independent states". In principle, this could hardly be acceptable to Mr Yeltsin. In practice however, the Russian President's options may be closing.

Before the security council meeting, Emil Pain, a liberal presidential adviser, told Russian independent television that "hawks" in the council were pressing for Grozny to be stormed. Saying that some members of the council were urging talks with Mr Dudayev, Mr Pain said the storming of Grozny, with inevitable heavy casualties, would destroy Mr Yeltsin's image and endanger Russian national security.

To judge by evidence on the ground, storming Grozny may not be possible for the demoralised and poorly-trained Russia troops.



A Chechen woman weeps as she looks through her window at the funeral of a fighter killed near the capital

Strange companions share basement seat of power

Anatol Lieven, one of the last Western newsmen to escape from Grozny, reports on the surreal scene in the cellars of the bomb-damaged Presidential Palace, from where President Dudayev directs the Chechen resistance

THE latest reports from Grozny, the Chechen capital, say the Presidential Palace has been bombed and is burning. When we last saw it, on Saturday, near-misses had reduced it to a virtual ruin and its denizens were leading a troglodyte life in the cellars.

The ugly, pompous and typically Soviet official building has had a number of different names. After the national revolution of 1991, it became the Parliament of the Independent Chechen Republic of Ichekeria, but it is today known universally as the Presidential Palace. President Dudayev's offices are on the top two floors, but the parliament no longer needs space, having been effectively suppressed by General Dudayev last year.

Many of the building's windows had already been broken in the Russian-backed opposition attack on Grozny on November 26. The rest went in the Russian bombings last week. Nobody had bothered even to tape the windows against blast. As far as I could see, the only taped window on all the lower floors — and the only one to survive last week — was that of the Chechen press information centre, which I had personally taped in an act of self-preservation.

With the windows gone, snow began to drift in. As the bombing came closer and the lights went out, the entire government moved to the cellars.

They made one of the strangest sights I have seen. Part of the basement is occupied by a huge central heating system with pipes spreading into the semi-darkness. Sitting on or between the pipes are Chechen soldiers and officials with candles, like heavily armed gnomes.

Other cellar rooms are full of debris from the former Soviet bureaucracy: long rows of filing cabinets, bundles of files and heaps of Communist propaganda. These are the rooms occupied by the Presidential Guard, some of whom have a traditional Chechen look, with beards and enormous woolly hats.

Others have the broken noses, scarred faces and hard eyes of former hitmen from the Chechen mafia. There they sit, cooking their dinner with the help of the minutes of the Central Committee and directives on the development of the Soviet railway. Even these, however, are not the oddest inhabitants of the cellars.

Among the Presidential Guard is a solitary Ukrainian volunteer called Sashko Bily, a Neanderthal figure with a prognathous jaw, minimalist forehead and a broken nose, who proudly shows off the armband of Unto, the virulently Fascist and anti-Semitic Ukrainian paramilitary organisation. He said he had come to Chechenia to fight "for civilisation" and "against Russian imperialism". He is just the kind of person you would expect to find in a cave.

Very different, and strange almost beyond belief, was another figure that drifted up to us through the gloom, white-bearded, dressed in a sort of white robe and wearing a tall white woolly hat with a bobble, looking for all the world like some amiable fairytale magician. He gave me his card and told me he was Magister Viktor Popkov, leader of the Omega Inter-Ethnic Inter-Confessional Society for Justice and Well-being in Moscow.

As shells and bombs sent tremors through the floor under our feet, he said he had come to Grozny "to fix the principles for the avoidance of war between nations". For want of any other description, I must classify him as a saint. I hope he does not suffer martyrdom for his principles, least of all in the company of Sashko Bily.



A Chechen soldier patrols the streets while a house burns in central Grozny

Gorbachev's winter slide from power haunts Yeltsin

BY ANNE MCELVOY

FOUR years ago next month, days after Orthodox Christmas was celebrated as an official public holiday in the Soviet Union for the first time, Omon troops stormed the television tower in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, in response to demands from the Baltic states for independence. Fourteen people were killed and more than 100 injured. Five days later, Omon struck the Latvian Interior Ministry in Riga.

President Gorbachev denied ordering the assaults, but he failed to condemn them, or punish those responsible, suggesting that he had lost control of events. The violence and subsequent vacillation weakened Mr Gorbachev's democratic credentials and, despite distancing himself from hardliners in his leadership, he never regained the trust of supporters of liberalisation.

President Yeltsin's fate bears some similarities to that of his predecessor. Both were modernisers whose initial popularity waned to weariness with botched reforms. Both started out as autocratic leaders, but found themselves increasingly subject to the push and pull of military and industrial forces. Neither managed to secure full control of a wayward military.

Mr Yeltsin is more decisive than Mr Gorbachev and there is no doubt that the offensive against Chechenia originated in the Kremlin, rather than in rogue sections of the military or security forces. The outcome, whether good or bad, will be attributed to the President. But there are strong hints that Mr Yeltsin is improvising wildly now that his hope of a short, sharp outright victory has not been fulfilled.

His statement yesterday that the military stage of the mission in the rebel republic is over and that he intends to form "administrative organs" there takes no account of President Dudayev, the unpredictable Chechen leader, nor of the rebels' determination to fight on for control of the approach road to Grozny.

Absent from public life since the conflict began, Mr Yeltsin has reappeared to tell Russians what he thinks they want to hear, rather than the sober truth about the botched incursion in the Caucasus. Sergei Kovalyov, his own human rights commissioner, condemned the intervention as a "crazy massacre" run by military hardliners for their own ends. Nikolai Yegorov, the Deputy Prime Minister, has ignored Mr Yeltsin's message and urged a rapid capture of Grozny.

Meanwhile, the CIA, which warned Mr Gorbachev of the forces gathering against him before the coup of August 1991, has issued a similar prediction in a secret report delivered to President Clinton at the weekend.

A gung-ho mission to rap the knuckles of secessionists is turning into a multi-faceted embarrassment. Public support for the venture is lower than ever, although this could turn into approval if the Russians bring Chechenia back into line with minimum losses and could stem the organised crime which flows from Grozny. But that outcome is far from certain. The strategy of bombing the breakaway republic into submission exposed the Russian leader to the accusation of using terror tactics against civilians, a severe blow to his claim to embody Russian democracy. This is presumably another reason for suspending the assaults.

However this war ends, it is going to leave Mr Yeltsin with new tensions and gaps in the already strained military. The resignation of Colonel-General Eduard Vorobyov, Deputy Commander of the Russian land forces, and the opposition to the operation voiced by General Georgi Kondratyev, Deputy Defence Minister, push the President deeper in debt to General Pavel Grachev, his bullying Defence Minister.

The Russian leader already has blood on his hands after using tanks to quell parliament's uprising in October 1993. He was bailed out then, albeit after some delay, by General Grachev, whose reward has been a large say in policy towards former Soviet countries.

Just as the Omon thuggery in Lithuania and Latvia accelerated a feeling of disappointment in Mr Gorbachev which had been heralded by brutal interventions in 1989 and 1990 in Georgia and Azerbaijan, Mr Yeltsin may find that the violence against Chechenia is seen as speeding the decline in his moral authority.

'Black Christmas' catches on

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN POLITICALLY correct America, the season of celebration is far from over. Just as the Jewish Hanukkah was followed by Christmas, so Christmas yesterday gave way to the seven-day festival of Kwanzaa, which has dubbed the "Black Christmas" by its detractors.

Kwanzaa, Swahili for "first fruits of the harvest", is a celebration of black America's African heritage. It was first held in 1966 and has already achieved a remarkable status in a country where any public hint of scepticism would earn an instant scolding.

Millions of black Americans observe it and, regardless of their colour, school-children across America now learn Kwanzaa songs as well as Christmas and Hanukkah music in preparation for what is officially referred to as the "holiday season". Shops sell Kwanzaa greeting cards, Kwanzaa cookery books and elaborate guides on what to do at Kwanzaatime, and most cities stage a range of Kwanzaa cultural events.

The festival even warrants a presidential message. "Warm greetings to everyone who is observing the festival of Kwanzaa," President Clinton declared in this year's offering. "All of you can be proud of your efforts to infuse the holiday season with diversity and new purpose. Hillary joins me in wishing all of you a wonderful celebration and a happy New Year."

Kwanza actually began as a by-product of the Watts riots in Los Angeles in 1965. It was dreamt up by Maulana Karenga, director of black studies at the University of Southern California, as a way of uniting black American communities and restoring their cultural pride.

But, although Kwanzaa is rapidly gaining ground, it has not yet replaced the chief post-Christmas tradition in this nation of materialists. Yesterday Americans flocked in their millions to the shopping centres for the first day of the year-end sales.

'Latin lover' star Brazzi dies



Brazzi: first Hollywood appearance in 1949

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ROME

ROSSANO BRAZZI, the *South Pacific* star who broke screen hearts in "Latin lover" roles in the 1950s and 1960s, has died in Rome, Italian news reports said yesterday.

ANSA news agency quoted sources close to the Italian actor's family as saying that Signor Brazzi, 78, died on Christmas Eve in a Rome hospital from an undisclosed virus that affected his nervous system.

Signor Brazzi, who also directed, played in more than 200 films, mostly made in the United States. His first Hollywood appearance was in *Little Women* (1949). But it was *The Barefoot Contessa* (1954), featuring Ava Gardner and Humphrey Bogart, that established him as a specialist player of handsome heartbreaker and aristocratic roles. Another 1954 hit was *Three Coins in the Fountain*.

"Rossano Brazzi will certainly be remembered as one of the few Italian actors known in America as well," Carlo Verdone, an Italian actor and director, said.

In the late 1960s signor Brazzi, who was born in Bologna, resettled in Italy, but never enjoyed Hollywood-style success.

In 1984 he came under investigation over international arms and drug smuggling, but the case against him was dropped.

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Chinese leader's visit seals ties with Burma

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BANGKOK

LI PENG, the Chinese premier, arrived to an enthusiastic welcome in Rangoon yesterday on a three-day visit that has provoked an unusual amount of interest and some unease in the Asian region. Mr Li has gone to Burma to promote neighbourly relations and bilateral co-operation, and Chinese spokesmen say the visit is "an important event".

Peking was the first government to recognise Burma's ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) after it seized power in 1988, and the two countries have developed close trade and military ties. China has been upgrading Burmese naval bases along the Bay of Bengal, facing India, to the concern of Delhi.

When he arrived at Rangoon airport with his wife, Zu Lin, Mr Li, who is regarded as a hardliner in the Chinese leadership, was met by Slorc leaders and several hundred children, who cheered the couple and waved Chinese and Burmese flags.

"The Chinese connection is vital for Rangoon and they are pulling out all the stops for Li Peng," said a Western diplomat. "Slorc has felt isolated and China has helped to ease its pariah status." China used to back the Burmese Communist Party (BCP), providing it with arms and moral support, but pragmatically moved away from it in the 1980s as its ties with Rangoon grew.

Since the BCP's collapse, however, China has provided sanctuary for some of its former leaders. Peking dropped support for the now defunct Thai Communist Party at the same time, moving towards closer state-to-state relations with Rangoon and Bangkok.

Slorc has welcomed Chinese recognition and support. Regarded as an international outcast for its suppression of pro-democracy protests in Rangoon, the Burmese junta values all the support it can get. It still holds Aung Sang Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate, under house arrest in Rangoon, although she has been permitted certain access to foreign visitors and has had two rounds of dialogue with representatives of Burma's ruling council.



Li Peng arriving in Burma yesterday for a brief stay

The two states have something in common, with the Chinese Government previously also under Western attack for its suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in June, 1989. While most states, given the size of China's internal sales market, have since mended fences with Peking, Rangoon remains just beyond the pale.

Burma's trade with China's south-west province of Yunnan, which during World War II forged links along the Burma Road to support Chinese military action against Japan, has burgeoned in the past few years.

According to statistics, official two-way trade is estimated as worth about £320 million a year, although unofficial reports double that figure. Arms sales, which run from small arms to coastal frigates, are worth several hundred million dollars more, diplomats say.



Business cycle: a Peking resident collects his vehicle from a street bicycle park. The Chinese bought 30.5 million bikes in 1994, the most in the world, and demand is expected to rise to 31 million next year, according to the *Economic Information Daily* paper

US pilot's plight casts doubt on Kim's authority

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TO THE Clinton Administration's dismay, North Korea let Christmas come and go without releasing the American military pilot whose helicopter was shot down over its territory on December 17.

Senior American and North Korean officials yesterday held another meeting in the demilitarised zone dividing North and South Korea to discuss the release of Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, but a US military spokesman said that "no substantive progress was made".

America had hoped that the pilot would be set free in time for Christmas and had sought to smooth the way on Christmas Eve by sending the North Korean authorities a letter regretting that the helicopter had accidentally strayed into North Korean airspace. A Pentagon official admitted that there had been "obvious disappointment" when there was no response.

Pyongyang's intransigence is again putting in doubt the future of the US-North Korean nuclear pact agreed in October. This would end North Korea's nuclear weapons' programme in return for two new nuclear reactors worth $4 billion (£2.6 billion), supplementary oil deliveries — delivery of which is scheduled to begin next month — and improved economic and diplomatic relations. Even before the helicopter incident, there had been strong congressional opposition to the pact on the grounds that it offered too many concessions to North Korea.

The pilot's continued detention is also raising doubts about the authority of Kim Jong Il, the son of the late Kim Il Sung, the "Great Leader" who died last summer.

Some Western analysts believe that hardline elements of the North Korean Peoples' Army may deliberately be holding the pilot to try to scupper a nuclear pact negotiated by the more moderate Foreign Ministry and that Mr Kim lacks the power to overrule them.

The remains of David Hilemon, the helicopter's co-pilot, who died in the crash, were returned last week.

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Yak sperm bank to be opened in Tibet

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

CHINA is opening a yak sperm bank in Tibet.

At a cost of more than £128,000 and after six years of debate, the bank is due to open next year and will be able to inseminate artificially up to 100,000 animals. Of the 14 million yaks in the world, almost 13 million are in Tibet, where they are used for transport and for their meat, milk, and fur.

Tibetan nomads complain that they must sell the yaks and their products to the Government at controlled low prices while other favoured Tibetans and Chinese are allocated the best grazing lands.

Two years ago the authorities invited two foreign experts from Veterinarians Without Frontiers to visit Tibet to give advice on yak insemination in Tibet. They are reported to have refused to co-operate because they felt it was another form of Chinese control over the region. They feared that artificial breeding would make the animals more susceptible to disease. The Chinese claim that years of natural inbreeding have made Tibetan yaks smaller and less able to produce milk.

Japanese warned of surge in terrorism

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Government has issued a warning about a possible surge in terrorist attacks in 1995, as right-wing extremists are likely to stage violent protests to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The Public Security Investigation Agency, which is responsible for fighting terrorism, predicted in its annual report that right-wing groups may try to disrupt war-related events in the run-up to the anniversary of Japan's surrender on August 15. Extremists may try to attack or murder prominent people, said the report, released yesterday.

There are an estimated 900-1,000 right-wing groups in Japan, many of them well-organised and well-funded. Extremist campaigns have generally been peaceful but the police said this month that radicals have been strengthening their alliances with large organised crime syndicates, in an attempt to adopt more violent tactics.

Right-wing groups have expressed opposition to any action which acknowledges that Japan overstepped the mark in the Second World War.

Patten 'the serpent' fights fear of future

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

PEKING blames the poor state of British-Chinese relations on Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, whom it dubs: "the man of guilt for a thousand years"; "the serpent"; "the Buddha" and "the whore".

Yet Mr Patten is feeling cheerful and combative. Gone is the conciliatory of recent months, endlessly seeking openings for agreement with Peking. Re-enter the Tory bruiser, giving as good as he gets.

During an interview in Government House, Mr Patten declined to treat China as different from any other country with whom Britain negotiates, which is what "the China experts" have often recommended.

"The Chinese have a technique, hallowed by centuries, of defining balance and co-operation entirely in terms of you doing whatever they wish," he says. "Their use of the word 'sincerity' is the most intriguing example."

During the past week Peking has suggested again that Hong Kong should be "sincere", that its people should draw closer to China.

Hardly a week passes without new Chinese demands on Hong Kong. Six months before it resumes sovereignty on July 1, 1997, Peking will install an appointed Legislative Council to replace the one elected next year, which according to the 1984 British Chinese Agreement, should sit until 1999. Judges appointed here before 1997 will not be guaranteed their positions after 1997. The right of abode for people now living here will not be settled until after the changeover. And so on.



Patten: giving in to Peking would be easy

Mr Patten says: "I don't think that disrupting arrangements that have enjoyed the support of the people of Hong Kong is a way of promoting stability."

He notes that after 1997 "to a degree people will see China through a prism of what happens in Hong Kong".

Giving in to Peking's demands, he observes, would be easy. While maintaining that recent legislation — modest constitutional changes leading to a much wider franchise for electing the Legislative Council, which have enraged China — is right, Mr Patten admits that surrender is tempting.

He recognises his unpopularity with bankers and businessmen, although Hong Kong's trade with China has improved by over 100 per cent during his governorship.

Perhaps half the six million residents of the colony are mainland refugees and most of the rest are either their children or grandchildren. Mr Patten concedes that many are terrified of the future.

هذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Marseilles drama bolsters hardline interior minister's no-compromise policy

Paris presidential poll hijacked by crisis in ex-colony

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MARSEILLES

THE new Algerian war finally burst on to French soil yesterday, forcing the Government of Edouard Balladur to reflect on its conduct of a confused policy that has turned Paris into the "Great Satan" of a formidable Islamic force.

"Everyone knew this was bound to happen," said Jean-Francois Deniau, a former centre-right Foreign Minister, as he deplored the way France has allowed itself to assume the villain's role in Algeria's "dirty war" by appearing to back the military-led regime of President Zeroual.

As the former colonial power and home to two million Algerians, France is the obvious target for the anger of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the more extreme Islamic Armed Group (GIA), which hijacked the Air France airliner. However, as 22 French citizens have been murdered over the past 15 months, Paris has sharpened the enmity of the fundamentalists by waging its own crackdown against suspected Muslim activists and treating the FIS movement as terrorists.

The central importance of France as the main foreign agent in the Algerian conflict was highlighted by the hijackers' main demand before the plane was stormed yesterday: to be able to hold a press conference to try to convince the world of the crimes and injustice which they say are being committed against their people by the Algerian authorities.

Confusion in Paris has compounded the picture, with Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, speaking out for compromise while Charles Pasqua, the powerful and very popular Interior Minister, has taken over relations with Algeria as a matter of national security. In a telling illustration of the twin approaches, one of the most senior French military commanders last week admitted that he did not know if France had, as the FIS alleged, recently supplied the Algerian authorities with military helicopters.

EFFECT ON FRANCE

M Pasqua and his many supporters have long been adamant that there can be no compromise with a movement bent on the installation of an Islamic dictatorship. The hijackers have played straight into his hands. Their siege on the tarmac at Marignane airport was a direct face-off between M Pasqua and the force which he has worked hard to diabolise.

While M Pasqua has thundered against Islamic extremists and rounded up hundreds of suspects in France, M Juppé has joined Britain and other European states in urging dialogue as the only solution to a war in which tens of thousands of people have been killed. M Balladur has adopted an ambiguous stance, appearing to support both the hard and softer lines.

French leaders say privately that they believe there is nothing that Paris or anyone can do to halt the slide to full-scale war in Algeria and military officials say the conflict, carried out in the absence of any foreign media, has already reached the level of barbarism and bloodshed seen in the war led by the National Liberation Front (FLN) for independence from France three decades ago.

Impotence is the word most often voiced as France surveys the economic and social wreckage of what was once one of its most prosperous territories. "Poor Algeria," *Le Figaro*, said yesterday. "Since its independence in 1962, it has been abandoned, with the support of French governments and the complicity of the Parisian intelligentsia, to the Third Worlders of the FLN, who have turned out to be redoubtable crooks and looted it."

While M Pasqua's police-style approach is opposed by a minority in France, there is general agreement that the Algerian conflict is a big French problem and an element in the campaign for the French presidential elections in the spring. It will be seen as a measure of M Balladur's quality as a crisis leader. On a wider level, Muslim extremism, or at least the fear of it, has replaced communism in the popular mind as the national bogey in the election campaign.

Among other actions, M Balladur's Government has outlawed the wearing of headcovering in schools. The measure, popular with the public, has led to the expulsion of several dozen girls from schools. M Pasqua's police are said by human rights organisations to be acting well beyond acceptable bounds in the hunt for activists and illegal residents. Their latest target is the explosion of satellite dishes on immigrant housing estates which the popular press claims are used to receive inflammatory Muslim television transmissions. Algeria is already a bigger factor in the 1995 election campaign than in any since Charles de Gaulle ended French rule there in the 1960s.

Christopher Dobson, page 12



A member of the GIGN takes aim. The group has scored notable successes, but must take inevitable risks



Juppé: favours talks to stop Algerian conflict



Pasqua: rounded up hundreds of militants

France calls in elite commandos as last resort to save hostages

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

SHORTLY before the hijacked French airliner arrived in Marseilles at 3am yesterday, another plane touched down at the airport: in it were members of the National Gendarmerie's Intervention Group (GIGN). Within hours they were in action, using highly-specialised techniques that have brought them a reputation in France to rival that of the SAS in Britain.

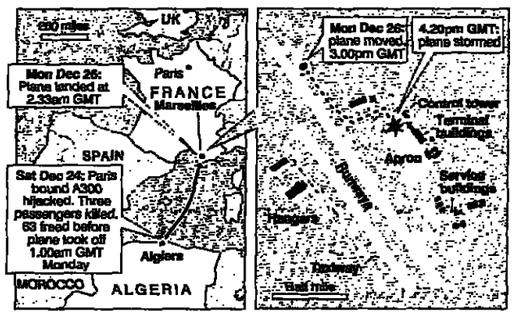
With their black uniforms and balaclavas, the 87 commandos who comprise the GIGN have undergone intensive training, analysts in Paris said yesterday. But in rare interviews, the unit's officers have emphasised that intervention is always a dangerous solution, only to be used if there is no alternative.

Created in 1974, members of the GIGN are drawn from the gendarmerie, a police force that answers to the French Ministry of Defence. Competition for places is tough, with just eight people selected from 80 candidates this year. The training is tougher, lasting ten months, with the aim of turning police officers into a highly-skilled, mobile and flexible force.

SHOCK TROOPS

The unit is divided into four brigades of 15 gendarmes, assisted by administrative staff. At all times, one brigade is ready to leave the GIGN's base at Versailles, near Paris, within 30 minutes, and a second within two hours.

Also, they always know they could be asked to liberate hostages like the ones involved in the storming of theaircraft in Marseilles. One of the techniques they use is to approach hijacked aircraft in helicopters which initially fly sufficiently high not to be heard on the ground. Yesterday, however, the GIGN attacked the plane from the ground, blowing out the door with explosives, then rushing on board.



Television footage of some training sessions shows the gendarmes lowering themselves with ropes on to aircraft then attacking from a number of different angles.

It is a strategy that carries inevitable risks, but one that has brought the GIGN notable successes. In 1976, for instance, a brigade freed 30 children held on a bus in Djibouti. Three years later, the gendarmes helped to end the siege of the Great Mosque in Mecca, after scores of people had been killed.

In 1988, the GIGN led a successful assault on Ouvéa, New Caledonia, where local gendarmes had been taken hostage by extremists seeking the island's independence.

The unit has not escaped controversy, particularly over its role in framing three Irishmen accused of terrorism and arrested in France in 1982. But most Frenchmen are prepared to forget that blunder, and look instead at the unit's record: altogether, it has made more than 650 interventions in its 20-year existence, freeing a total of 350 hostages and making 550 arrests.

"We benefit from a genuine recognition abroad," Denis Favier, the 35-year-old captain who has been at the head of the GIGN for two years, said recently. Yesterday, he was in Marseilles, directing operations on the ground and liaising with his predecessor, Philippe Legorjus, 42, who is now security adviser for Air France.

Algerians seized three planes in past year

THE weekend's hijacking is the latest in a series during the past two years.

Used initially by extremist groups to highlight their causes, in the past two years hijackings have been used increasingly for attempts at criminal extortion and for escapes from repressive regimes. There were 21 hijackings in 1993, ten of which involved Chinese planes being diverted to Taiwan.

There have been two airline hijackings this year linked to political violence in Algeria:

☐ ALICANTE: On February 28, an Air Algérie Boeing 727 with 127 people on board landed at Alicante after being hijacked on an internal flight between the Algerian cities of Oran and Annaba. The three hijackers freed 12 passengers two hours before surrendering. They were denied political asylum in Spain, which planned to try them for air piracy.

☐ MAJORCA: On November 13, an Algerian Fokker 27 civil aircraft with 38 passengers and four crew was hijacked on an internal flight and forced to fly to Majorca. The hijackers, who were armed with a knife and a coffee-grinder, demanded the release of all political prisoners in Algeria, freed all the passengers and crew and surrendered to police.

EARLIER HIJACKINGS

Fundamentalists target foreigners to weaken 'unbelievers'

FROM REUTER IN TUNIS

MUSLIMS

THE Armed Islamic Group (GIA) is considered the most radical and dangerous of Algeria's Muslim fundamentalist groups and also the most hostile to foreigners.

Algerian authorities say four of the five gunmen who seized an Air France airliner in Algiers on Saturday are members of the GIA, which is trying to transform the north African nation into an Islamic republic.

More than 70 foreigners, among them 22 French nationals, have been killed since last year when the group gave foreigners a month to get out of Algeria or face death. In a recent interview in the Algerian daily newspaper *Essalam*, one unidentified GIA leader was quoted as describing foreigners as "the main coronary artery" of a plan to "colonise" the country with non-Muslim unbelievers.

"Killing and fighting them is the practical message to weaken the unbeliever rulers," he said.

The GIA sometimes claims to be the heir of the first wave of Muslim guerrilla activists in Algeria. This movement was considered to have been put out of action after its founder, Mustapha Bouyali, was shot dead in 1986 by security forces. His followers were arrested and sentenced to death, but were freed early in 1990 under pressure from the emerging Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The GIA tested its strength in November 1991 by storming an army outpost and killing three soldiers in the southeastern town of Guemar, according to the interview with the unnamed GIA leader. The fundamentalist group said that its leaders had to take part directly in violent operations.

"They should experience armed operations and must demonstrate that they have killed significant numbers among God's enemies," the leader said. The last GIA chief was Cherif Gousmi, known as Abou Abdallah, who was killed in a gun battle with security forces near Algiers in September.

Algerian newspapers reported in November that Abou Abderrahmane Amine, the new leader, was seeking co-operation with the FIS to confront a build-up of security forces after talks between the Government and FIS leaders collapsed.

Bihac's maverick leader threatens Bosnia ceasefire



Abdic: his role has ghostly parallels with the last war

BY TIM JUDAH
BALKANS CORRESPONDENT

THE ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina was in danger yesterday after President Izetbegovic issued a warning that he would end the truce unless fighting in the northwestern Bihac pocket was stopped.

At the same time Hasan Muratovic, a member of the Bosnian Government, made clear in Sarajevo that the Government was unlikely to attend scheduled United Nations peace talks while Serb attacks continued in the northwest.

In the Bihac pocket, troops loyal to Fikret Abdic, the Muslim rebel leader, backed by Serb forces from the breakaway Krajina region of Croatia, are keeping up an offensive against government forces because they are not party to the ceasefire. Mr Izetbegovic told Bosnian radio: "If these attacks continue ... our army will have to respond on other fronts."

Mr Abdic has proved to be one of the most resilient characters in modern Bosnian history. He is a businessman at heart. Under the patronage of Hamdija Pozderac, a President of Bosnia in Communist times, he built Agrokomerc, a highly successful agricultural company based at Velika Kladusa. When Mr Pozderac's enemies sought to undermine him in the late 1980s, they did so by attacking Mr Abdic, uncovering evidence of huge financial irregularities involving Agrokomerc. Mr Abdic was jailed but was soon back on the scene, standing as a candidate in Bosnia's first free elections in 1990.

Widely popular, he received more votes than any other candidate. It was, however, Mr Izetbegovic, ironically with Serb votes, who became the first post-Communist head of state. As the war began, Mr Abdic, a reluctant supporter of independence, repaired to Velika Kladusa. From this fief he sought to keep what had become the Serb-encircled Bihac enclave out of the conflict.

He declared its autonomy and was proclaimed its "president". He signed deals with the Bosnian Serbs and the Croats, and did business with everyone. But by last August supporters of the Sarajevo Government had mustered enough strength to drive out the man they had declared a traitor. He fled with 30,000 of his followers, most of whom are from Velika Kladusa.

The refugees found themselves trapped in Krajina, where 20,000 of them were obliged to live in poultry sheds on an Agrokomerc farm. Two months ago, when Bosnian forces broke out of Bihac, the Krajina Serbs began mobilising and arming Mr Abdic's men. With artillery and infantry support they began the offensive that continues today.

Many people in former Yugoslavia say that this war is really the continuation of the Second World War and that it has many parallels with the past. The extraordinary story of Mr Abdic is made even more so because it, too, has its ghostly echoes. Huska Miljkovic, like Mr Abdic, came from a modest background from a village near Velika Kladusa. He came to the fore during the Second World War as leader of what was called the Muslim Militia.

At first he sided with the Croatian Fascists and the Germans, but later brought his men over to the side of the partisans. Now he lies buried in the mosque of Velika Kladusa. According to a supporter of Mr Abdic: "The two men are different but their aim, to keep the region safe, is the same."

It remains to be seen whether Mr Abdic will have a postwar role to play. The Serbs are hoping to reinstall him as puppet ruler of the whole region and then upset the calculations of the peace planners by claiming that the land he controls can no longer be considered as connected to the Sarajevo Government.

Huska Miljkovic did not live to see the end of the Second World War. He was murdered by fellow Muslims working either for the Serbs or the Croats — depending which version you believe.

WORLD SUMMARY

Six shot in Haiti protest

Port-au-Prince: Six Haitian former soldiers were shot after hundreds of them stormed into the army headquarters here to demand back pay.

General-Brigadier Mondesir Beaubrun, who barricaded himself in his office, said he fired his gun towards the protesters in self-defence and believes that he hit at least one. Two more were shot in the street and up to three were struck inside the headquarters. It was unclear whether they were killed. American troops surrounded the buildings and arrested about a dozen of the protesting former soldiers. *(AP)*

Corsican murder

Paris: The murder yesterday of the former president of Bastia Football Club fuelled tension in Corsica before next month's trial concerning the 1992 stadium disaster in which 17 people died (Adam Sage writes). Jean-François Filippi, 54, who was in charge of the Corsican club at the time, was shot as he left his villa near Bastia. His wife was seriously injured. The shooting came just eight days before M Filippi and 13 others were due to stand trial on allegations of manslaughter in connection with the stadium tragedy.

Uzbekistan poll blow

Tashkent: Uzbekistan's first parliamentary election since independence looked set to return a large majority of regionally backed candidates to power, leaving the two main parties falling far short of their expectations. No official figures were available by mid-afternoon yesterday, the day after the poll, but the ruling Democratic Party said that unofficial returns showed it would win only about 30 per cent of places in the new 250-seat parliament. *(Reuter)*

Terrorism charge

Islamabad: Pakistan yesterday accused India of "sponsoring terrorism" in the city of Karachi and instructed the Indian Consulate-General there to close within ten days, reflecting a clear worsening in relations. Najmuddin Sheikh, Pakistan's senior diplomat, called the consulate "a centre for sabotage", saying Islamabad had indisputable evidence of India's involvement. An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the claim was unfounded. *(Reuter)*

Drunk driver hit airliner

Peking: A drunk, joy-riding in south China without a driver's licence, steered an airport lorry on to a runway and crashed into a passenger jet just after it touched down, an official report said. Nobody was seriously hurt in the October 28 accident in Chengdu, Sichuan, because the China Southwest Airlines Tupolev 154 managed to swerve to avoid a more direct collision. *(Reuter)*

Airborne stowaway

Harare: Ishmael Nyemba, 10, tricked his way on to a Royal Dutch Airlines flight here by pretending he was following his mother. A local news agency said that cabin crew on the Amsterdam-bound flight found the boy seated in one of the front rows after take-off. He had no ticket. *(AP)*

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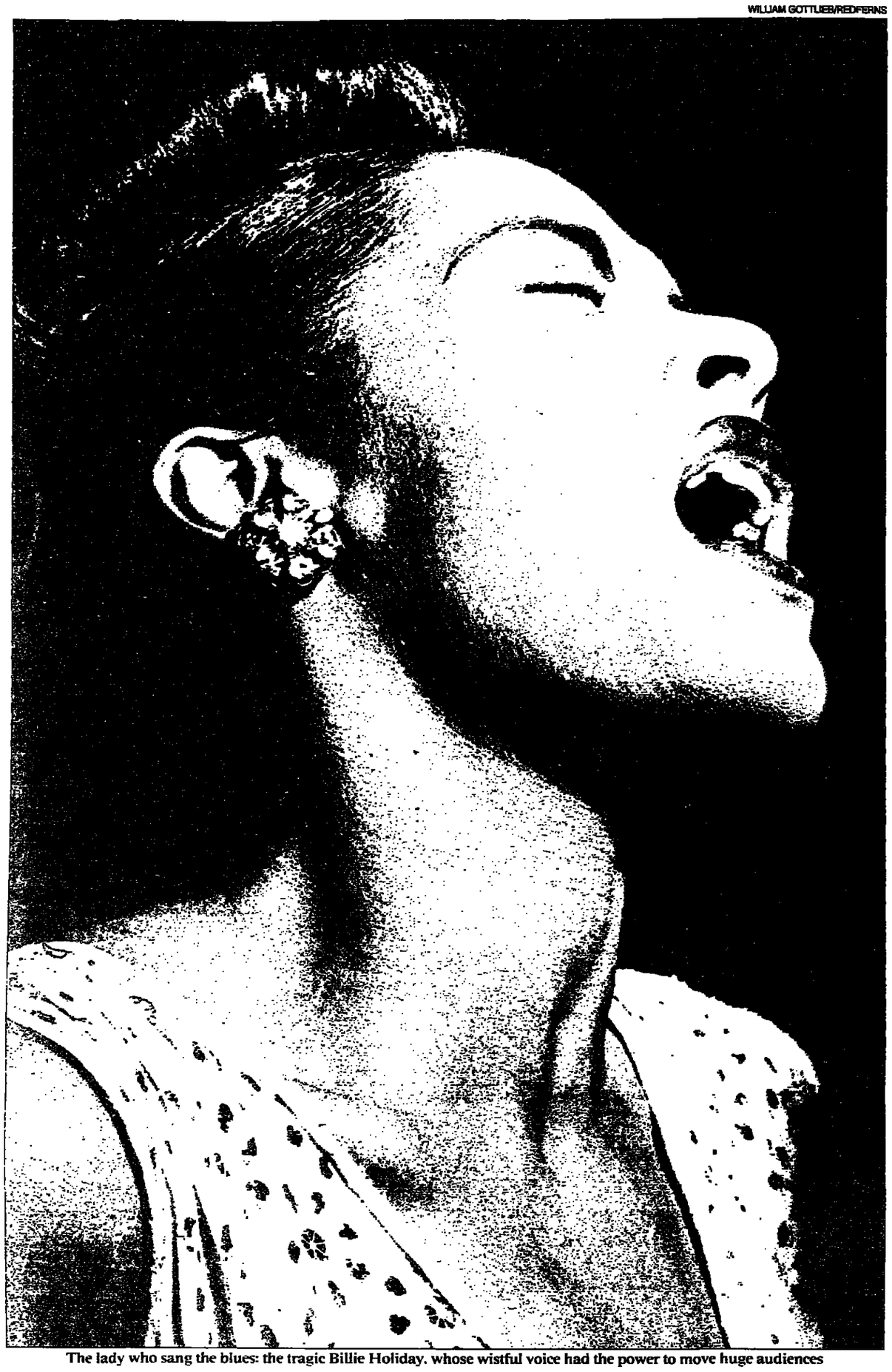
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Notes that pluck at our heart strings

WILLIAM GOTTLIEB/REDFERNS



The lady who sang the blues: the tragic Billie Holiday, whose wistful voice had the power to move huge audiences

Why do we love to wallow in sad music even when we feel happy? Psychiatrist **Anthony Clare** investigates

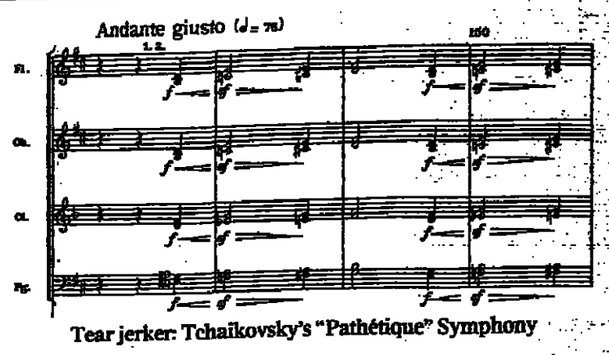
Without adultery, we would not have the Western novel, or so it is said. Without melancholia, would we have Western music? At its heart, be it classical, blues, jazz, pop, country & western or folk, is the melancholy of loss, separation, unhappiness, broken dreams, fractured hearts, what might have been and should have been and could have been. It is not unusual for patients of mine going through a bad time to mention that they cannot listen to the radio. It is too full of gloomy, nostalgic and plaintive tunes — Mahler and Morrissey, Sinatra and Sibelius, Gershwin and Gorecki.

When asked for examples of particularly melancholic pieces few of us have any difficulty identifying our favourites. Denis Healey, who exults in the fact that I once described him as one of the happiest people I know (what his relatives make of him may well be quite another matter), not merely picked a Kurt Weill song but was passionate enough to sing it. For Sir Colin Davis, soon to take over the London Symphony Orchestra (he is only the third Briton to do so, following in the distinguished footsteps of Elgar and Beecham), it is the third movement from Sibelius's bleak Fourth Symphony. One of my own favourites is Ella Fitzgerald singing "Every time we say goodbye", another the Piano Trio in G minor by Smetana.

A composer does not have to be gloomy to compose melancholic music but it would appear to help. Smetana wrote his trio in the autumn of 1855 when he was in considerable distress. His first-born daughter, Bedrska, who had herself shown promise as a musician, died suddenly and tragically. The opening recitative for solo violin has been described as a cry of cruel pain and a reproach to fate for having so suddenly interrupted the life of an innocent child. The piece is subjective, like so much of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov but, argues Sir Colin, truly great melancholic music is written by composers who are at one remove from the despair, who are detached, in emotional control, and magisterially objective. They may draw on their own expriences or, lacking them, they may even contrive or "act" the feelings.

Many composers, however, had no need of acting ability. They knew very well indeed what it was like to be depressed. There is a quite extraordinary galaxy of composers who we know suffered during their lives from serious depressive mood swings, and who wrote some of the most magnificently melancholic music in the canon — Berlioz, Bruckner, Elgar, Glinka, Handel, Holst, Madder, Mussorgsky, Rossini, Schumann, Scriabin, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.

Sir Colin's choice of Sibelius's Fourth Symphony casts an interesting light on the relationship between a composer's own mood and his composition — one commentator described the impact of the symphony as like "a cyclone that has ravaged the Sibelian landscape, leaving him in a world torn to shreds". Sibelius wrote it around the time he underwent two operations for malignant throat cancer. Though the cancer was successfully removed, the possibility of recurrence must have dominated his thinking.



Tear jerker: Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony

Explanations of why particular kinds of music evoke melancholic responses emphasise pitch and rhythm and pace and choice of instrument and the crucial element of key. There are few examples of melancholic music played in a major key. For my BBC Radio 4 programme on the subject, Tasmin Little elegantly illustrates the importance of key by playing a little snatch of Mozart in major and ten minor and transforming a jaunty little gavotte into a sorrowful dirge. Other techniques that violinists such as she employ to deepen the emotional intensity of works such as Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto include using a muted string, playing closer to the bridge and, by altering bow pressure, making the instrument "weep". Mind you, certain instruments in Western music have only to be played in a certain manner and tears prick the eyes — the saxophone wailing, the flute bare against a bleak musical landscape, the funereal rhythmic thump of a soft drum.

> For performers, playing the blues 'puts the pain of life into words and music'

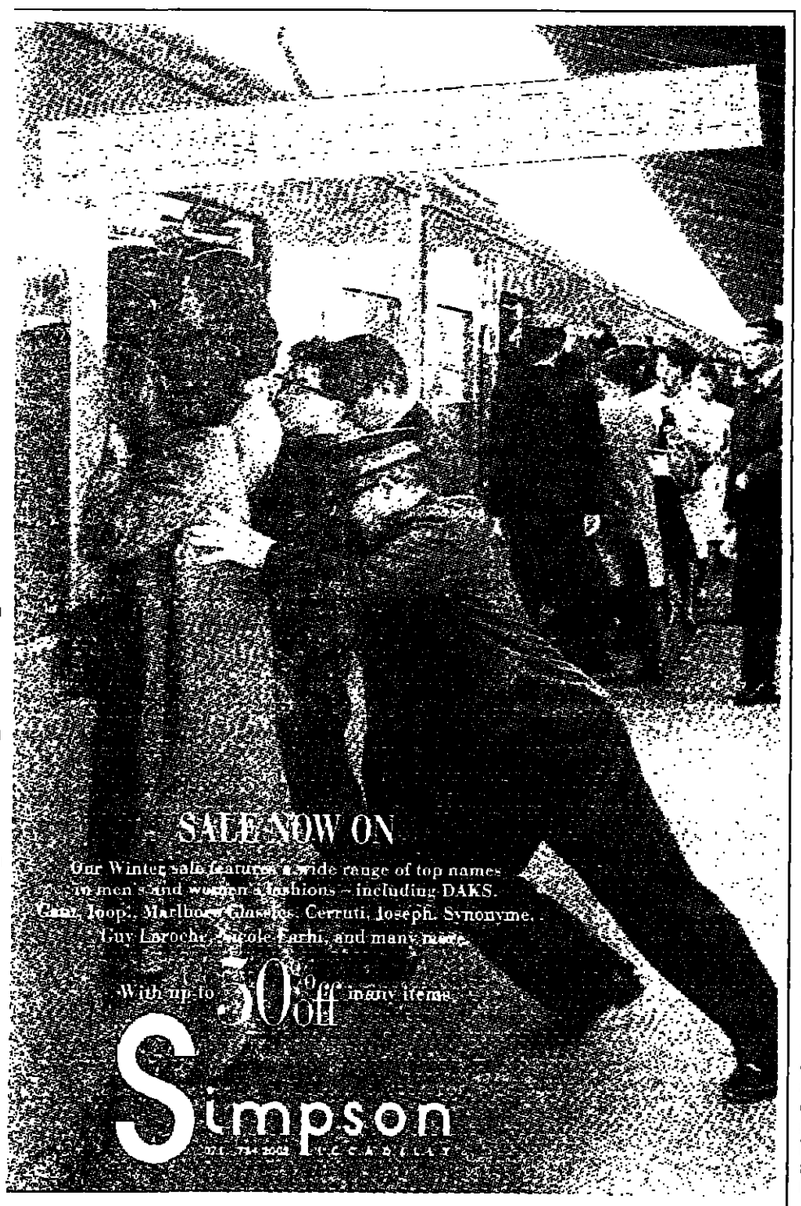
How universal then is this musical language? Not particularly, according to music critics of an eclectic taste such as Ben Watson, who reviews an astonishing range of musical sounds for the specialist magazine *The Wire*. Watson plays a Burundi whispering song which sounds sinister and threatening to Western ears but which turns out to be a piece by the composer praising and celebrating the patron who had paid him. Other forms of music, most notably blues, are virtually defined in terms of mood. For performers such as Little Eddie Kirkland and Edwin Pickins, playing the blues is "putting the pain of life into words and music". Some songs are so emotionally overwhelming that singers insist on performing them at the end of a concert, so drained are they by the process of emotional abreaction involved.

Using music to help patients to abreact is one of the techniques used by music therapists. Anne Sloboda, who currently chairs the Association of Music Therapists, argues that helping patients who have difficulty verbalising to make sounds, using musical instruments such as violin, flute or drum, helps them to communicate something of their inner turmoil.

At the present time, too, brain researchers keen to learn more of the neurochemical and neurophysiological foundations of depression are using a marriage of music and magnetic resonance scanner to help them. Dr Simon Baker, a psychiatrist and research fellow at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Medicine at the Medical Research Council, plays a piece by Prokofiev at half speed to produce a feeling of depressed mood and scrutinises the blood flow and metabolic changes in brain functions as the subject under the scanner listens. A system in the brain has been identified — the orbitofrontal cortex in the front part of the brain just above the eyes — which is associated not merely with low mood but with elevated and pleasurable mood too, a finding which provides support for the notion that listening to melancholic music produces a beguiling mixture of sad and happy sensations.

Giacomo Puccini knew all about this. He wrote *La Bohème*, he said, to make the tears flow. Merely composing the chords that accompany Mimi's death made the incorrigible romantic burst into uncontrollable weeping. The attraction is that such melancholia is under our control. We feel the emotions when we want to feel them and the way we want to feel them. If it all gets too much we can turn the music off. To that extent, listening to melancholy music may be more than the self-indulgence critics dismiss it as; it may well be good for us, providing an opportunity to stay in touch with feelings, to rehearse them, to keep them honed and in good fettle for when eventually they are needed. So go on — put on Lotte Lenya singing a bit of Kurt Weill and join Denis Healey in a good weep. It seems to help him to stay happy.

● Anthony Clare's Musical Melancholia *will be broadcast on Radio 4 at 7.20 tonight.*



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A healthy trust

Greater honesty can do wonders for the doctor-patient relationship

MY FATHER developed palpitations a few weeks ago, felt unwell and was whisked off to the nearest casualty department to get his heart checked. Fortunately the episode was short-lived and his heart rate had reverted to normal within the hour.

The doctor on duty suggested that the palpitations had been precipitated by abruptly switching from beta-blockers — the medication he had been taking for high blood pressure — to another type of tablet. The advice to change from one to the other had come from his GP. Myself, I put the palpitations down to the stimulating mug of coffee that he'd drunk just before feeling unwell.

Either way, as his daughter I was relieved that nothing more sinister had occurred. As a doctor, however, I found my loyalty veering to the side of the GP. My father wanted to transfer to another practice, on the basis that his GP was somehow responsible for the visit to hospital. Had he been living in America he might even have threatened to sue.

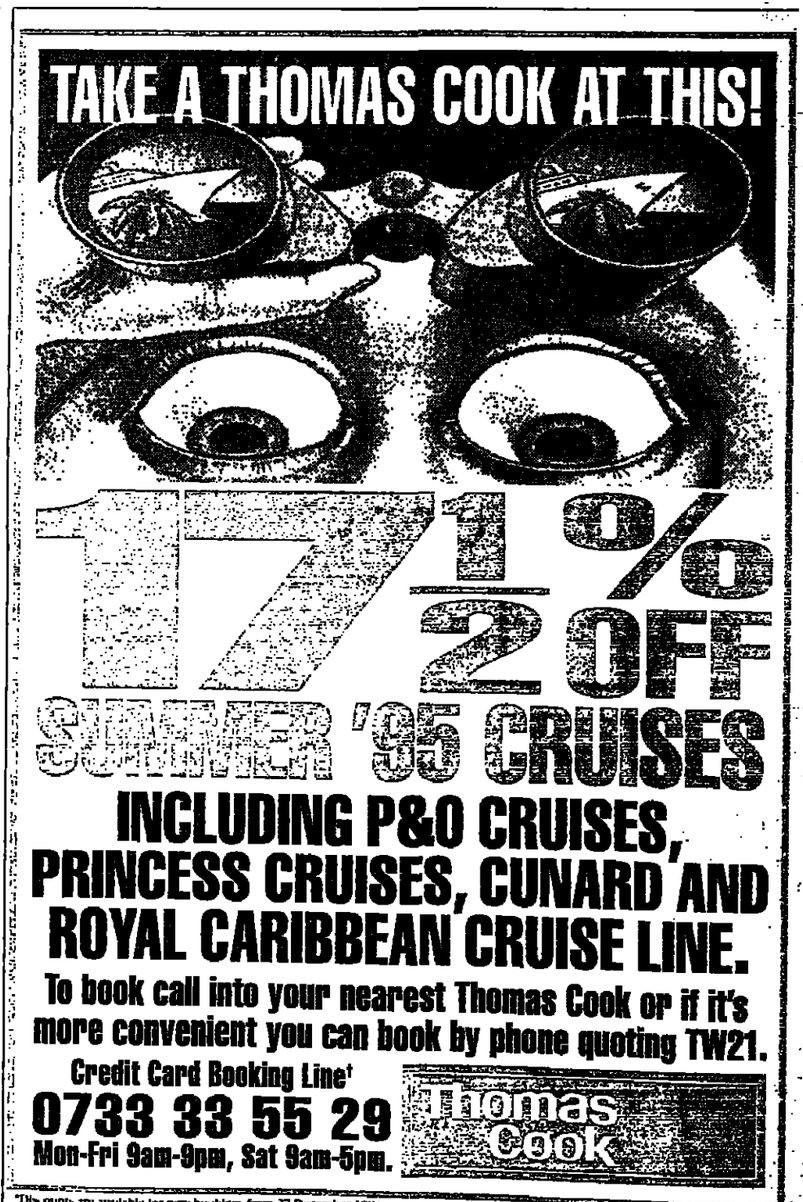
I was caught in the middle, trying to explain to him both why the GP had not been negligent — since the majority of people suffer no ill-effects when they stop taking beta-blockers — and that no two individuals react in the same way to any drug. The practice of medicine in this sense is an art, not an exact science. No one could have predicted my father's palpitations, not even his GP who had known him, and his anxious disposition, for many years.

According to a recent paper in *The Lancet*, there are three reasons why patients turn to legal action after an adverse medical event: altruism (to prevent the same thing happening to others); naked truth (to find out exactly what happened), and recompense (financial compensation or gain). With medical litigation creeping in everywhere, and the practice of ever more defensive medicine increasing as a result, surely it's time for both the public and the medical profession to take stock and join forces.

EVENTUALLY my father was persuaded to stay registered with his GP. After all, this was the first time any doubts had been sown in their otherwise long and harmonious doctor-patient relationship. I assured him that if not an apology from the GP, then a courteous and sympathetic acknowledgement of the unfortunate incident would be offered. But neither was forthcoming and the result was a widening rift between him and his GP. My loyalty swung back towards my father.

If doctors seek respect, then we must deserve it. If we wish to be seen as human beings, as fallible and as vulnerable as everyone else, then we will have to summon the courage to admit that this is indeed what we are. A sensitive explanation, greater honesty and a simple apology, where appropriate, can do wonders to the trust between patient and doctor. As does encouraging patients to hold more realistic expectations of the medical profession and to take greater responsibility for their own health.

DR ABI BERGER



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A big nose in the whisky business

Richard Paterson first sniffed at seven. Now he is a master blender



JOANNA PITMAN

ACROSS the table from me sits Scotland's most celebrated nose. Long, bulbous, polychromatic, this nose is more a badge of office than an organ: a nose applauded, garlanded and honoured with trophies: a nose that needs only to be tossed the finest atom of scent before it is off, lunging, flaring and imbibing its fill, never forgetting, never mistaking.

The famous nose belongs to Richard Paterson, master blender of Scotch whiskies, a professional sniffer who has been in the "nosing" business for 26 years, smelling, blending and tasting whiskies every day in his capacity as chief blender for Whyte & Mackay.

In his bailiwick he has no remote rival. This year, the 500th anniversary of the first record of Scotch whisky, he has been named Scotland's master blender, winner of the Spirit of Scotland Trophy.

The award adorns his mantelpiece in Glasgow alongside a multitude of other diplomas, awards and trophies, records of his nosing triumphs at home and abroad and of his esteemed position as "Master of the Quaich", an exclusive society of Scotch connoisseurs. He is thought to be the last remaining "nose" to have descended from a genuine nasal dynasty, which in his case goes back through three generations of Patersons.

With so many titles, it is difficult to know how to address him and so we settled simply on "The Nose" as the most appropriate. So alert to his olfactory world is The Nose, that the minute he wakes up in the morning he has a distinct picture of the weather. Rain, wind, approaching storms, a broken bottle of wine on the pavement outside his window — The Nose knows instantly what's going on outside.

When he walks into an office, he can smell whether there are more men than women, whether they are young or old. In the street he can sniff and identify expensive scents, floating behind women like rich ribbons on the afternoon breeze: he can also pinpoint who it is at the other end of the bus queue who ate garlic the night before.

"I'm aware of every smell around me from the second I wake up. I pick up and mix scents in my mind, I store them away somewhere always trying to relate them back to whiskies. Blending a good whisky is a bit like doing a complex oil painting. I have to be sure that I'm selecting the right colours in order to blend them correctly to create a masterpiece."

So finely honed is The Nose's talent, that, given a single whiff of a blend of 15 single malt whiskies, he can detect a change even if just one has been altered. The ability has been built up from a lifetime of daily nosings, as an amateur from the age of seven, and as a professional since he left school at 17.

Now master blender The Nose rises before seven every morning, dines on a light breakfast of tea and cereal before clambering into his white overalls and wellies to begin a day's nosing in the Whyte & Mackay "bonds", the cavernous unheated vaults where the whiskies are blended and matured in oak casks.

Marching swiftly up and down the rows of casks, he pours and noses six blends a minute and keeps this up for an hour before taking a break. "What I'm doing is checking that the maturation process is going correctly. I can tell straightaway if a cask is leaking or giving off the wrong odours or if the blended elements are not getting on well together. Ninety-six per cent of a whisky's taste can be understood from nosing and I seldom need to drink it as well."

In an average day The Nose will get through 500 blends, observing their hues, checking their oiliness and finally, after adding a dash of hot water to release the alcohol, savouring the smells from his nosing glass. "If you've got a big nose like me, you just literally jam it in so that there's nowhere the whisky can go but up your nose.

"YOU STICK your nose in there and you say hello. The water ensures that you get some expression right away and then gradually the whisky starts to reveal itself. You have to give it time — I try to give each one a good ten-second inhalation, to get an idea of its character."

Ever since the day his father took him into the bonds for the first time to sample and learn to distinguish the sweet from the dry, the luscious from the opulent, The Nose has been diligently adding scents, colours, tones and flavours to his whisky repertoire. "It doesn't take long to learn how to distinguish the real guts from the mere glamour."

The anniversary blend which won him his latest trophy at an Oscar-style awards ceremony at Guildhall, London, is "the sum total of all my years of work and knowledge. Everything I have ever done is in this blend ... It's mmmmmmm absolutely wonderful, a hint of wood, floral tones, full, rich, elegant ..." The Nose lifts off into transports of odoriferous delight. Personally, I am still savouring my precious taste of his famous blend: and at £750 a bottle it is well worth savouring slowly.



ADRIAN BROOKS

Richard Paterson: "I'm aware of every smell around me from the second I wake up"

How a terrible accident shed light on our thinking

Clues in the cortex

IF WE compare animal brains to our own we find that the region of greatest change is the outer layer of the brain, the cortex. Up to a point, therefore, the cortex must be related to thinking, since humans indulge in thinking far more than other species. In higher animals the cortex is folded, "convoluted". It is important to know that the cortex remains the same thickness but its surface area has increased.

Certain areas of the cortex seem to have a clear correspondence with the motor system: at the same time, there are other parts of the cortex which have connections with our sensory systems. However, it is not as simple as it might seem. There is no direct matching of an area of your body to an area of the cortex. For example, one might expect that one's hand, which is a relatively small part of the body, would have neurons that register impulses on the hand in a very small part of the cortex. But this is not the case. In fact the hands and the mouth have an enormous representation.

Of all the cortex, the area that has increased the most in humans is the area at the front. It is called the prefrontal cortex, and during mammalian evolution it has increased 3 per cent in cats, 17 per cent in chimpanzees but a staggering 29 per cent in humans.

Our first clue to its role comes from a strange event in Vermont in the 1840s. In America at that time, railway tracks were being laid over great distances. Phineas Gage was a foreman on a railway gang and it was his job to push dynamite down a hole in order to remove any obstacles to the track. He used a tamping iron — 3ft 7in long and 1.25in at its widest point — to tamp the dynamite down.

One day Gage was pushing down the dynamite with his iron, when a spark ignited the dynamite prematurely. Gage was not killed by the explosion as you might immediately think, though its force drove the iron up through the left-hand side of his head, through the frontal cortex. After a brief period of unconsciousness, Gage came round and seemed to be remarkably unaffected. Once the initial wound had healed it was as though nothing had happened — yet he had an iron bar through his head.



Dr Susan Greenfield

However, it was then that people started to notice the difference. Whereas before Gage had been a co-operative and friendly person to work with, he became overbearing, indecisive, arrogant, obstinate and uncaring of others. In fact he became so unpleasant that he had to leave his job on the railway and ended up living out the rest of his life as a fairground freak, touring around with the bar sticking out of his head.

THIS also raises more immediate questions of what this area of the brain does. Is this the area which determines character? A little later, a furrier fell 100ft from a window and the fractured bones of his skull severely damaged his frontal lobe. He, too, had been good-tempered and sociable but turned cantankerous.

These tragic accidents are interesting because they show us that our personalities — which we think of as fairly fixed and inviolate aspects of ourselves — are really at the mercy of our physical brain. Such sad cases indicate that this area at the front of the brain is concerned not with survival, but with very sophisticated aspects of our minds.

Over the years there has been a lot of case documentation and study on what happens when this frontal region of the brain is damaged. For example, patients who have damage in this area cannot switch rules if they are doing something. Some people refer to "working memory", where you have an idea of rules, a way of working. They find it hard to remember events in a proper context.

It is hard to sum up in one word what the function of the frontal lobes are. We certainly could not say that they are for some very specific role, such as love of one's country. It is very hard to talk about the function of a particular brain area, and this damage to the prefrontal cortex shows it. We can say that a patient has problems with working memory or social problems, but it is very hard to find out what the common factor is.

It seems, then, that although brain areas have special functions, these don't correspond one to one with obvious aspects of our character and specific activities in the real world.

Another example of why it is hard to match up the outside world with events in the brain is Parkinson's disease, named after James Parkinson, who first reported it in 1817. It is a severe disorder of movement. Patients find great difficulty in walking: they might show a tremor or limb stiffness.

Unlike many disorders of the brain, in Parkinson's disease we know exactly where the problem lies: deep down in the middle part of the brain, called the substantia nigra. There is a very specific loss of brain cells in this one particular part of the brain. We also know the chemical that is important to this is dopamine, and therefore if one tries to replace the dopamine one can restore some of the patient's motor skills.

However, even though we know all this, we still cannot say what the function of this brain area is for normal movement. We know it is important, but we do not know exactly how. People are still trying to find out, even at this very minute.

SUSAN GREENFIELD

● *This is an extract from one of Dr Greenfield's Royal Institution Christmas lectures, which will be broadcast tomorrow on BBC2 at 2pm.*

Old girls get to work

Rabbi Julia Neuberger believes in networks for women — so much so that she has helped to set one up

"Setting up the old girls' network" is one of the "recreations" I list in my *Who's Who* entry. That fact is often alluded to jokingly when I am introduced — by men — as a speaker, but has never been mocked by women, because they know the importance of networking. They are all too aware that they have, on the whole, been slow to set up networks, to mirror what men have enjoyed for generations.

The lack of natural networks for women can be explained by their history. While female friendships blossomed in women's largely domestic world, there was no equivalent of the club, where one chap might say to another: "Give my son a chance in the business, Monty old boy ...", with the implication that the favour would be repaid.

Women did not network with other women much when they first reached the public domain. Indeed, those professional women who were relatively successful early on often pulled up the drawbridge behind them.

Margaret Thatcher is a case in point: she only ever appointed one woman to the Cabinet in all her years in office, Baroness Young (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, 1981-82, Lord Privy Seal 1982-83). But she was not alone; many other women have been slow to help others, a curious reflection on a group that is always supposed to be "caring".

Last October, a new network for women was set up to remedy some of this on a large scale. Called the Minerva Network, it has a potential of more than 100,000 members, the old girls of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, a group of 26 highly academic girls' schools all over the country. At the network's launch reception old GPDST girls were enthusiastic about networking for business and social contacts and in order to provide advice and support for younger women coming along.

> Margaret Thatcher appointed only one woman to the Cabinet

That advice might be relevant at the school-leaving stage, or for starting university, or when entering the job market or, later still, when help and advice are needed to think about career directions.

Among the distinguished former pupils of GPDST schools are Dame Angela Rumbold, MP, who is a key player in all this, Stella Rimington of MI5, and Dame Mary Donaldson, first woman Lord Mayor of London. There are writers — A.S. Byatt, Margaret Drabble, Fay Weldon and Sally Emerson — and actresses including Miriam Margolyes, Dame Maggie Smith and Helena Bonham-Carter.

The fashion writer Suzy Menkes and the founder editor of the *BBC Music Magazine*, Fiona Maddocks, are both old girls, as is Janet Cohen, director of Charterhouse Bank and a governor of the BBC. They are, by any calculation, a distinguished bunch, and there are many, many more who have agreed to join the network.

But it is not only about networking for women's immediate benefit, business or social, although that is a major part of it. It is also there to draw attention to the need for these schools for women to exist at all. For many girls, opportunities for academic single-sex education in the maintained sector are relatively few — yet evidence suggests that girls tend to do better, at secondary stage, in single-sex schools.

GPDST schools make no bones about their selectivity. They are there to give bright girls, from whatever background, a sound academic education, and they do. The trust was founded on the principle of good affordable education for girls of ability, regardless of background, and their openness to all social groups, as non-denominational academic schools, had and has a strong philanthropic edge to it.

So the GPDST was in the Direct Grant Scheme from 1944 to 1976, and I held one of those "free" places. Since 1980 they have been part of the Assisted Places Scheme, giving opportunities to girls whose families cannot afford the full fees to gain a GPDST type of education, with stunning results, such as the case of Jane Lightfoot, a classicist, who won the All Souls' prize fellowship recently.

This is, of course, by no means the first women's network. There are women's networks in the City and in media; there is Forum UK for very senior women, and several more. But our network is different in scale and in kind. For its commitment lies in relationships with each other, within the group, and down the age range, to younger women and girls still at school.

It will be both social and have a cause, committed as it is to women's advancement. It will be great fun, with its huge group of women to draw on, and useful to its members and their daughters.

● *Further information from Alison Graham at The Minerva Network, GPDST, 26 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AN.*

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Prophecy isn't always soothing

Magnus Linklater on the seer whose warnings come true

It is a pity that we have lost the art of prophecy. There are no real seers or soothsayers to whom we can turn for grim tidings of the year to come; no one to scatter the bones or dissect the steaming entrails; no Cassandra to chill the blood with fearful tales of tribulation to come.

Like previous years, 1995 will have to rely on the hit-or-miss predictions of *Old Moore's Almanac*, with its banal guesswork about royal weddings, political upsets and unspecified world disasters: or on the bland generalisations of tabloid astrologers. There is not much insight to be gained from tarot cards, Ouija boards or crystal balls when they come mass-produced in plastic with ready-made instructions.

Perhaps the nearest thing to the sages of the past are today's economic gurus, with their arcane runes and their dubious predictions. Like many prophets, they have an infinite set of excuses if things go wrong. They can blame politicians or speculators for clouding their vision, and they can rely on the kinds of evasion that have always governed the art of the futurologist: making their forecasts ambiguous, keeping the timescale flexible, and above all, not being tied to anything too specific. That way, you can always claim that eventually you will be proved right.

But the real prophets of the past played a more fundamental role than simply foretelling the future. They were commentators on their own times, consciences of the age, revered as much for their wisdom as their prescience. In the 16th century, Nostradamus was a philosopher and doctor whose predictions, cast in rhymed quatrains and divided into centuries, were so obscure and enigmatic that his followers spent as much time interpreting them as in determining whether they were right or wrong. Both Catherine de Medici and Charles IX consulted him and gave him honoured positions at court — not just to know what fate had in store for them, but to share his view of their world.

No prophet, however, has been quite so bold in his assertions as the 17th-century Highlander Kenneth Mackenzie, the Brahan Seer. He operated on a narrower compass than Nostradamus, concentrating on his home territory, north and west of Inverness. But his gloomy predictions acquired such a reputation for accuracy that his fame spread throughout Scotland. Unlike Cassandra, whose warnings were ignored, Mackenzie was believed to the letter. He is credited with foreseeing the introduction of sheep to the Highlands and the subsequent depopulation of the area, the building of the Caledonian canal, the Battle of Culloden, the arrival of the railways, even the discovery of North Sea oil. He was a back-to-basics man, predicting declining morals, "ministers without grace and women without shame". True, he passed on his grim warnings in Gaelic and in somewhat elliptical language (railways were chariots without horse or bridle: oil was black rain), but he made up for that by attaching very specific conditions to his prophecies.

A branch of the Mackenzie clan, he said, would face ruin when a cow climbed the steps of a particular castle tower and gave birth to a calf in the topmost chamber. That unlikely event duly took place in 1851, and became so celebrated that special transport had to be laid on from Inverness for curious sightseers to witness the result. The luckless family fulfilled the prediction by dying out. He foresaw financial disaster for the McNeils of Barra when a "big-thumbed Sheriff Officer and a blind man of twenty-four fingers were found together on the island". In 1838 it was reported that a blind itinerant pedlar with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, had crossed over to Barra on the same boat as a sheriff officer who had come to serve an order of eviction on the McNeil of the day. Bankruptcy followed.

Since there was no contemporary written evidence about what the Seer had actually said, considerable licence was taken in interpreting his more obscure predictions. But to this day there are people in Inverness who will shake their heads at the warning he is said to have given about the dangers of building more than four bridges across the River Ness. The day that happened, he said, a frightful disaster would strike the entire world. In August 1939 a temporary fifth bridge was opened for a few days. On September 1, Hitler marched his troops into Poland.

> He attached very specific conditions to his prophecies

Prophets of doom are rarely popular, however, and the Brahan Seer came to a sticky end. He was asked by a powerful local lady, Isabella Mackenzie, Lady Seaforth, to tell her when she might expect her husband back from a long trip to the Continent. The Seer shook his head and said he thought it might be some time yet. The laird appeared to be enjoying himself considerably in Paris and showed no sign of wanting to return. Enraged, Lady Seaforth ordered the Seer to be burnt to death in a barrel of tar.

Before his grisly end, however, he made a number of pointed predictions about the fate of the Seaforths. They would, he said, end in extinction, and no direct heir would inherit so long as one stone of the family seat, Brahan Castle, stood upon another. The Seaforths did indeed die out, and Sir Walter Scott, who knew them and the prophecy well, wrote a lament for the last of them. The title passed to a different branch, but from that day to this no direct heir has ever inherited. Soon after the last war it was decided that this run of bad luck was too great to be continued. The castle was blown up, and each stone separated from the others. The present owner, a farmer with a teenage son, waits to see whether he has done enough to placate the Brahan Seer and ensure the survival of the line.

Now that's what I call the power of prophecy.

Deadly calculations on the runway

Christopher Dobson explains how the security forces prepare themselves for terrorist hijackings

The storming of the hijacked Airbus became inevitable once the fanatical terrorists of the Armed Islamic Group had started to kill hostages. When that happens, the deadly game of hijack chess slides out of control. The only calculation that matters then is how many hostages die, and nobody can answer that until the storming is over. The Israeli attack at Entebbe was successful. The German attack at Mogadishu was even more so. But the Egyptian attack at Luga, in Malta, was a bloody disaster.

The Algerian terrorists are so extreme that they have been disowned by the National Liberation Front, which has waged war against the Algerian Government since 1992. Where they went wrong was in demanding to fly to France. In Algiers, they could put pressure on a Government inexperienced in these matters and without a specialist group trained in resolving them.

Once in France, they were faced with a Government with an almost embarrassing profusion of highly trained anti-terrorist groups to call on. For political reasons, too, France could not allow the hijackers to succeed. It would have been a disaster for the Prime Minister, Edouard Balladur, if he had succumbed to their demands.

Perhaps their greatest mistake was to ask for fuel to fly to Paris. This raised the spectre of the plane arriving over Paris with its 170 hostages, and the hijackers seeking early entry into paradise by shooting the pilot and crashing into the heart of the city. Had they been members of Hamas, the Palestinian fundamentalist group which specialises in suicide bombings, the chance of such a cataclysm would have verged on certainty. The Algerian fundamentalists have not, so far, shown such eagerness to die, but it was a risk the French could not ignore.

The terrorists have obviously learnt from the rash of hijackings of the 1970s and 1980s. They knew about the negotiation techniques developed by Western security forces, and had obviously been trained to counteract them. For example, they used the pilot as a "cut-out", relaying their demands through him and not allowing themselves to be drawn into negotiations in which their voice patterns could be recorded and analysed for signs of stress. They made sure the aircraft was surrounded by lights pointing outwards, so that anyone trying to sneak towards the plane to attach listening devices could be seen. The plane itself remained in darkness.

They used the hijacker's ultimate weapon: the steady, remorseless killing of hostages. Nothing is more calculated to induce panic in a government than such a combination of medieval cruelty and modern technology. So it became obvious that the hijackers had read the reports, studied at the feet of the terrorist experts and were prepared to implement what they had learnt.

For their part, the French had also learnt the lessons of the terrorist plague. They are members of the Trevi organisation, an international consortium which studies terrorism and how to counteract it. One of their first actions once the plane had been hijacked would have been to seek from the databanks all the information on record about the men or women involved. They would already have copious reports on the terrorists' group from their agents in Algeria.

With this information, the French would have been able to build up a picture of the hijackers, and the psychologists would have been set to work to identify weaknesses. Next, negotiators would be brought into play, seeking to establish contact and create a rapport. They would offer small concessions, agreeing to demands for, say, food, in exchange for the freeing of a few hostages.

They would talk about providing fuel, would suggest that the crew were too tired to carry on, say that fog prevented a flight to the requested destination. One trick would be to let slip that they knew the hijackers' names, thus sowing insecurity; but overall the object would be to keep the hijackers talking, to elicit more information, to hold out hope to them without giving in to their major demands. And all the time they would seek by a mixture of acquiescence and pressure to prevent the killing of hostages.

While this exchange of pawns was going on, the security experts would be preparing the endgame. The anti-terrorist squad would have been trailing the hijacked plane. The commandos know the seat layout and the position of the doors in every type of plane they are likely to storm. They carry personal arms, stun grenades, explosives to breach the aircraft, special tools for jemmying open the doors, and ladders to reach vulnerable points. They also have listening and infra-red devices to pinpoint the position of the terrorists.

The greatest need in all special operations is intelligence. They will have reconnoitred the area. The plane will have been moved to a killing ground. Only when they were fully prepared would their commanders say that they were ready to carry out the assault. Then it would be up to the politicians to make up their minds.

The troops usually prefer to go in before dawn, when the hijackers are at their lowest physical ebb, but with the threat of more murders of hostages, the French could not wait.

The men of the GIGN, the National Gendarmerie's Intervention Group, did a good job. Alas, there were casualties among the hostages, but nothing less could be expected. To the French this will be the equivalent of the SAS storming of the occupied Iranian Embassy in London.

How his genius struck me

Instead of venting his rage and hatred in physical violence, John Osborne poured out a stream of great plays



John Osborne never hit me, though he threatened to do so frequently. He threatened all theatre critics (I was one when he was in his heyday), all managers, all agents, all theatre owners, all directors, all journalists, almost all of his wives, all teetotallers and for good measure all Irishmen. But as far as I know he didn't actually hit anybody, and the closest he got to doing so was giving instructions to people in the news who were being plagued and chased by gossip-columnists: "If physically possible," Osborne said, "push them out of the way."

But, oh, he could hate. And *how* he could hate. Perhaps the hate was to drain off a rage that otherwise would boil over and issue in bodily violence; perhaps, but I have never known anyone (with the single exception of Lee Kuan Yew) so devoted to keeping the hates alive.

Why? The answer cannot be that his later plays were failures, so that he became embittered: he was already hating vigorously (at 26!) when his first play, *Look Back in Anger*, was staged at the Royal Court and applauded to the heavens by Kenneth Tynan. But he was hating long before he put pen to theatrical paper, for he hated — the word must be used, because he used it — his mother, nor did he wait until she died to proclaim his hatred; indeed, his first volume of autobiography was studded with opportunities for cursing his mother, all of which opportunities he gladly took.

I dwell on the mother-hatred not only because he does, but because many people have hated their mothers, for good or bad reasons, but very few have proclaimed the hatred while the object of it was still alive. Nor, of course, was he shy of denouncing his four discarded wives (the fifth marriage endured to the end): one of the nicest things he said — publicly — of Jill Bennett was that "she was the most evil woman I have ever come across — she was a bitch", and he said it immediately after she had committed suicide. And then, in an interview with Lynn Barber, he was asked why he had a reputation for being nasty:

> I don't understand it at all, I really don't. I suppose it's because of the style in which I write. Everyone expects me to be . . . I certainly don't try to be unpleasant.

The almost incredible thing about that remark is that it is quite plainly true: he pisses in his once-beloved's grave, and he is really astonished when people find him unpleasant. This, surely, makes John Osborne a very singular person, does it not? We must dig more deeply.

He says, at the end of his autobiography, that his life had been ruled by passion; yes, but there are very many kinds of passion. Here is one: you have 33 guesses for the reason he takes off his signet ring when he meets the mother of his only child — Nolan, by Penelope Gilliatt. Give up? it is that he used to make a point of removing his signet ring whenever Gilliatt was around, for fear he might hit her and disfigure her for life. And, in his own words, "I never did hit her, and thank God I never did, but I came very close to it once or twice."

Look Back in Anger: Osborne looked back, forward and sideways in anger, but it is possible — indeed, almost certain — that the anger fuelled the genius and that without it we should never have had that very substantial body of work.

I used the word "genius"; should I have done so? Well, there is a test, and an uncannily apposite one, which may settle the question. No one, I think, would deny the substantial quality of our most regular, interesting and memorable contemporary playwright, David Hare. I now never leave the theatre after one of his plays without taking time to digest what I have heard; I take my time because I know that there are rewards for doing so, as Mr Hare digs more deeply into his theme. And yet, and yet: put Hare beside Osborne — is not something vital missing? And that something is the burning bush that Osborne swallowed many years ago, and which tore his guts until the end, pouring out poisonous venom and at the same time pouring out plays that will be staged for very many decades to come.

Bernard Levin

It was a pity that *Look Back in Anger* was his first play; it tagged him as a "kitchen sink" playwright. (I still remember the poor devil on the *Daily Mail*, where I was then working, who was sent out to find more disgusting plays to denounce as fit for nothing but Sodom and Gomorrhah; he was a man who never went to the theatre, but who found *Look Back in Anger* rather interesting; nevertheless he managed to rustle up the required *Daily Mail* denunciation.) But it took years to teach the theatre-going public (to say nothing of the *Daily Mail*) that a new and immensely gifted star had risen over the British theatre.

Just turn to *Who's Who*: if run in place of this column, his credits would occupy fully a third of the space, from *A Cuckoo in the Nest* (in which he acted), to *God Rot Tunbridge Wells* (which he wrote and meant). But never mind the price, feel the quality. It must have put him in a rage when he had finished *Luther* and staged it to have feather-brains saying "that's the *Look Back in Anger* man", but his retort was always there in his catalogue. The pages flutter: *The Entertainer*, *Luther*, *Under Plain Cover*, *Inadmissible Evidence* (for me, his masterpiece), *A Patriot for Me*, *West of Suez*, *Hotel in Amsterdam*, *The End of Me Old Cigar* and *Watch it Come Down*.

What went wrong? Did the stream dry up? Remember, a flop is only a play that too few people go to see; this does not mean that it is a bad play. His rancour, true, grew worse, not necessarily because his later plays failed, but the other side of the burning bush within him blazed anew, and some of his tirades were hardly coherent for the rage that he felt; his targets became the ordinary ones of the Home Counties, saying that the country is going to the dogs. Illness was added to disappointment, and when he collapsed, more than once, because he had forgotten his insulin injection, it was all too easy to categorise the falls as drunken, for the descendants of those enemies of yesteryear, the gossip-columnists, their teeth long since drawn. (Mind you, he could never be tagged a teetotaller, illness or no illness.)

Towards the end, he mellowed. He denounced the modern world, but there was no real rage behind it. His fifth marriage had stood 16 years, and he learnt to laugh at himself — something he had always found difficult. I admired him immensely, for his genius first, of course, and what it had given the world, but then for his iron-clad refusal to conform; some of his shouts and murmurs (many more shouts than murmurs) were silly, but he didn't care if they were, he went his ways — very many ways — annoying people who deserved to be annoyed, together with many who didn't. As I said when I started, he threatened to hit me and others but never did, but I have one such battle honour: on a railway station he declared that he would push me under an incoming train, but in the end he didn't do that either.

The fire in the bush has now burnt out, and we are the poorer for it. We have his works, which will endure; he blazed across our sky like the comet he was, and there aren't many like him left. (No, dear, Mr Alan Clark will *not* do.) We shall miss him; even those he singed will miss him. I never spoke words as deeply felt as those I speak now, when I say of John Osborne: "May he rest in peace."

Powell axed

ONE OF the grandest old men of the English novel displays an unsettling weakness for the flesh in his *Journals*, which are to be published next month. Not just any old flesh either: it was always Margaret Thatcher who caught Anthony Powell's eye.

Powell comments longingly on Thatcher's physical appearance throughout his memoirs, entitled *Journals 1982-1986*. "I find Mrs Thatcher very attractive, if not at all easy," he wrote in 1982 after a dinner for writers at which the Prime Minister was guest of honour.


Powell: ardent Thatcherite

"In the course of the evening I made covert enquiries as to how others felt in this respect. Physically desirable was the universal answer."

The entry — written in his late seventies — is soon followed by another, describing a subsequent encounter with Thatcher. "I continue to find Mrs Thatcher very attractive physically," writes the diarist. "Her overhanging eyelids, hooded eyes are the only suggestion of mystery . . . Her general appearance seems to justify Mitterrand's alleged comment that she has the eyes of Caligula and the lips of Marilyn Monroe."

Powell sat next to the Prime Minister again at supper, and comments in his memoirs on the "incredible perfection" of her hair-do. "In fact I found myself taken back to the age of nineteen, sitting next to a beautiful girl unable to think of anything to say."

THE TIMES DIARY

● *Reaction has been muted to a job advertisement placed in a national newspaper by the Oxford Concert Party, which claims to be Europe's only baroque and tango orchestra. The band is seeking a tap-dancing viola player.*

Filed spite

JOHN OSBORNE, who died on Christmas Eve, may have had the reputation of an irascible misanthrope, but he was a generous host when he entertained. Most memorable were parties in the 1980s at his Edwardian house, Christmas Place in Kent. The invitations were all-encompassing: "Mothers-in-law, dogs, kiddies, Australians and *Guardian* wimmin welcome," they would say.

Everyone would duly arrive to mingle with the likes of Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard and John Mortimer, as well as sundry Australians and in-laws. Osborne would stroll through the throng dispensing largesse in his raffish Edwardian stripes.

"Guests queuing for the loo in his bedroom were entertained by the titles of the files on his shelves," recalls a regular. "They indicated that all the angry letters he had sent and received were kept in meticulous order."



Big bong

THE SAMBAS in Rio de Janeiro have been more than usually energetic this Christmas because of beachside decorations. The city has applied to *The Guinness Book of Records* to register one of its constructions as the largest ever Christmas decoration.

"It's the world's biggest and we've filed the proof to the *Guinness Book*," says Luiz Alberto Marinho, the marketing manager of Barrashopping, Latin America's largest shopping mall.

The editors are considering the application: it concerns a red bell weighing 15 tons, which measures 153 ft from top to rim.

Lost copy

A SURE sign that the author Hanif Kureishi is reaching cult status was the theft on Christmas Eve of all 40 proof copies of his forthcoming novel, *The Black Album*.


Wash and go: a backhanded compliment for Hanif Kureishi

The new book by the author of *My Beautiful Launderette* and *The Buddha of Suburbia* is to be published by Faber in April, and the proofs were awaiting dispatch from Faber's London offices, when they were purloined.

"It is an indication that there is a black market value for his books," says an insider. "Proof copies are more valuable than first editions. They will probably turn up in various discreet bookshops in Bloomsbury in the new year."

Booksellers, however, will now be aware that all the copies are "hot", and may be reluctant to take them. Unless of course they are laundered.

P·H·S

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HIGHER THINKING

Labour moves forward on graduate tax

The Labour Party's decision to consider new forms of funding for higher education, including such previously taboo proposals as long-term student loans, strengthens its reputation as a party which can make worthwhile contributions to national political debate. The rapid expansion of higher education is one of the major fiscal and social developments of our times. The present Government has been impressively ambitious in promoting this expansion, but woefully unimaginative in addressing the financial consequences of its own educational plans.

In particular, the student loans system which was introduced to supplement and then gradually replace state student grants was badly designed and has left universities, students, their parents and the Treasury equally dissatisfied. Because the Government hoped to emulate private banking arrangements, the present scheme requires students to repay loans within five years of finding reasonably gainful employment. This short repayment schedule imposes a serious financial burden on many graduates, limits the numbers taking up the scheme, and maximises the risks of fraud and default. The financial contribution made by the scheme to the Treasury's costs has also been far too small.

Until now, a serious political debate on alternative funding mechanisms has not taken place. The specific ideas that David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, now seems to favour are imperfect. In particular, he is reported to prefer a new tax, to be levied throughout all graduates' working lifetimes, rather than a new type of loan which graduates could repay through the tax or National Insurance system over a period of years. This preference still smacks of the party's traditional preoccupation with income redistribution and its propensity to impose new taxes as a first, rather than a last, resort. More important at this stage than the details of the specific proposals are the two principles which any sensible reform of higher education funding should enshrine.

The first is that university students should make a significant contribution to the cost of their own higher education, instead of relying entirely on their parents or the State. The second is that this contribution should be organised so as to make higher education universally affordable and avoid imposing excessive financial burdens on those who enjoy it. The present student loan system satisfies neither of these objectives. Yet they could, in fact, be readily reconciled.

What is required is a very long-term credit system, directly linking the loan taken out to the repayments required but with interest rate subsidies from the Treasury. The long-term nature of the arrangement, the lack of collateral for lenders, and the desirability of linking repayment with the graduate's income imply that a sensible system of student loans should be administered by the Inland Revenue and not by the banks or other private institutions.

But a state-administered student loan would still be a far cry from a new tax. Unlike a tax, a loan system would be voluntary in nature. The burden imposed would be limited, well-defined and directly linked to the benefits enjoyed by the borrower. Above all, the borrower's obligation to the State would be one he or she could in principle satisfy and annul. If Labour cannot see why such an obligation is preferable to a new tax, it still has much to learn.

DEMON DELIGHT

January 1920: Prohibition declared in America

Today is perhaps the only day of the year when a proposal for Prohibition might find any ready response. After two days of over-indulgence, the body produces a chemical remorse for its sins: the very sight of alcohol can be nauseating. But though the flesh may be willing to forgo the demon drink, the spirit is weak. Four days from now most of those temporary converts to temperance will be opening bottles for the new year.

Seventy-five years ago the new year brought no such cheer to Americans. On January 16, 1920, the bars were closed, the vats were emptied and the remaining saloons in America made their last legal sale of liquor for 14 years. The 18th amendment to the Constitution of the United States came into force, and the "noble experiment" of prohibition began. It was one of the most disastrous attempts at the mass modification of behaviour ever attempted in a democracy. The 1920s were the decade of the speak-easy, bootlegging, extortion, Al Capone, the St Valentine's Day massacre, police raids on clubs and gambling houses, trips to Cuba and Canada where alcohol was legal. It was a time of political turmoil, with debate centring on the costs of enforcing the ideals embodied in the original Volstead Act. Prohibition was the result of agitation against alcohol's supposed undermining of America's war effort during the First World War. But it was preceded by a century of fervent campaigning that had its roots in the puritanism of the Founding Fathers.

By 1933, when the amendment was repealed, disillusion was almost universal. The experiment had necessitated a dozen international treaties to prevent smuggling. It led to hundreds of thousands of prosecutions, undermined respect for the law, made felons of normally law-abiding people and led to the damning conclusions of President Hoover's National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement. Yet the echoes lingered long after repeal. It was not until 1966 that Mississippi became the last state to scrap its "dry" laws. Many counties in Southern states still enforce "brown bag" laws to cover the public display of drink.

So searing was the Prohibition experience that few Western countries have attempted it since. Curbing the consumption of alcohol, however, has been an abiding preoccupation of lawmakers, and all manner of partial, local or temporary bans have been introduced. Preventing the sale of drink during or before football matches is a main weapon in the fight against hooliganism. Coventry introduced a ban on drinking in designated streets in 1988 to cut down rowdyism and street brawls, and six other cities followed. President Gorbachev, notoriously, tried to curb his fellow Russians' fondness for vodka, earning their undying contempt. Several Muslim countries have introduced complete bans on the sale and consumption of alcohol, with flogging and imprisonment as penalties.

Almost all such attempts have failed. Human nature has generally won the day. Even in Coventry it was found after two years that drunkenness, brawling and disorder had risen by 20 per cent. Indeed, there is some evidence that relaxation of licensing laws can reduce binge drinking. But for those who believe that intake of alcohol should be systematically restricted, there is always the body's temporary weapon: the hangover.

A PATRIOT FOR US

Osborne was a unique observer of English life

John Osborne will be remembered as far more than a great playwright. The opening of *Look Back in Anger* on May 8, 1956 was indeed a transforming moment in the history of British theatre, the birth of an era of "angry young men" and kitchen-sink drama. "This last particular date seems to have become fixed in the memories of theatrical historians," wrote Osborne laconically in his first volume of autobiography. He knew full well the significance of what he had done. Yet his legacy will not be confined to this particular dramatic achievement.

In one sense, it was Osborne's misfortune to write a masterpiece so early in his career. Invited by Kenneth Tynan to "make history" at the National, he replied: "Thank you, I've already made it." This was arrogance tinged with melancholy. After *Look Back in Anger*, the visits of the muse were capricious. Although *The Entertainer*, *Luther* and *Inadmissible Evidence* are great plays, many that Osborne wrote are not. It is a reflection of his significance as a writer that this matters so little. He will be judged not only as a dramatist but as a chronicler of postwar England and its foibles.

Some of Osborne's writing bears the ugly imprint of personal vendetta. His vicious attacks upon his mother and former wife in two volumes of memoirs diminish him as much as them. Yet these books are key texts for those who would understand English society in the last half-century. Osborne was fearlessly candid in his description of class *mores* in his youth and the tedium of a stultifying English upbringing. His descriptions of a family for whom "disappointment was oxygen" are unforgettable.

What distinguished him from many contemporary dramatists was a love of his country, its customs, music and liturgy. Sometimes this love was expressed in anger. The main character of *The Entertainer*, the music-hall comedian Archie Rice, was often assumed to be a metaphor for national decline. Earlier this year, Osborne published a collection of prose writing called *Damn You, England*. In truth, however, most of his invective was aimed at Englishmen, rather than England. During the 1961 Berlin crisis, he wrote a "letter of hate" to *Tribune*. "It is for you, my countrymen," he explained. "I mean those men of my country who have defiled it." This was the voice of a true patriot, outraged by the blunderers ruining his homeland.

Those who claim that Osborne underwent a character change from angry young man to clubland reactionary underestimate him. He was that rare thing, a persistent rebel. He revolted against the political correctness and nonsensical European bureaucracy of recent years as vigorously as he had revolted against the stuffy postwar Establishment. Behind his cynicism lurked the belief that intelligent objection was worthwhile. "There aren't any good brave causes left," rages Jimmy Porter, the anti-hero of *Look Back in Anger*. It is a tribute to John Osborne's belief in the power of writing that he never quite believed this.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

'Lack of interest shown by MI5 in agents of influence'

From Mr Tony Kerpel and others

Sir, In the furore over the Richard Gott affair (letters, December 13, 16, 20) insufficient attention has been paid to one significant feature — the inability or unwillingness of the Security Service, MI5, to counter the activities of agents of influence.

The Times has done more than most to highlight the difference between two wholly distinct types of KGB agent: the intelligence (or espionage) agent, and the agent of influence. The former were spies passing Western secrets to Moscow, whilst the latter were propagandists feeding Moscow disinformation to the West.

Both forms of activity are subversive but, since they are not spies, KGB agents of influence like Gott cannot be prosecuted in peacetime. It is precisely because the only sanction against them is exposure to the contempt of their fellow citizens, that their identities should no longer be concealed.

According to MI5 "sources", however (report, December 10), the intelligence services do not wish to be seen to be "engaged in a witch hunt against former Soviet 'agents of influence' and would only take action where such treacherous behaviour had broken the law". Since it is not illegal to co-operate in peacetime with hostile intelligence agencies to feed Western media with disinformation, this means that MI5 has a policy of doing nothing at all to punish or deter agents of influence.

The exposure of KGB agents of influence involved in the British anti-nuclear movement would have had as dramatic an impact in the 1960s and 1980s as the exposure of Mussolini's funding of Mosley's Fascists in the 1930s. In both cases MI5, as usual, kept what it knew to itself. That is partly why, in 1981, we felt it necessary to set up a campaigning group, funded by individuals and institutes in friendly Nato countries, in order to counter subversive propagandists in peacetime.

Those of us who actually traced and publicised direct links between Soviet-inspired "peace" campaigns and their Western mouthpieces were denounced as "witch hunters", no matter how accurate our evidence.

For example, in May 1984 the then Editor of *The Observer* described our detailed exposure of the links between the Soviet-controlled World Peace Council and a group called "Generals for Peace" as "an attempt to smear the names of a number of distinguished former Nato officers".

The Press Council — on which sat a member of the World Peace Council — refused even to consider our complaint against *The Observer*, giving no word of explanation for its decision.

It was not until ten years later, when the danger had passed, that "Generals for Peace" was finally revealed as having been organised by the Stasi, under the direction of the KGB.

Is the situation any better now? We doubt it. The Security Service still compares the deserved exposure of hostile agents of influence, or even misguided extremists, with a hunt for mythical "witches". Last week the press dramatically reported how the new Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee will be holding its supervisory meetings in a "secure cell" which will be regularly swept for bugs.

Yet, on that committee sits an actively left-wing Member of Parliament, Mr Allan Rogers, who has applauded the activities of the WPC and of a similar North Korean propaganda front; who called the hardline Communist coup leaders "patriots of Grenada" after their conviction for murdering their predecessors; who mourned the death of the Spanish civil war Communist, *La Pasionaria*; who described Nato cruise missile bases in Britain as being "under United States occupation"; and who backed Marxist regimes in Angola and Nicaragua while praising the "fortitude and resolve" of the Wapping pickets.

None of this makes Mr Rogers a spy, or even an agent of influence. It simply serves to illustrate why agents of influence and fellow-travellers need fear as little opposition from the Security Service in the future as they have done in the past.

Yours faithfully,
TONY KERPEL,
EDWARD LEIGH,
JULIAN LEWIS,
Policy Research Associates,
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.
December 20.

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN, Editor, Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, Your leader of December 16, "The voice of the swamp", goes to the heart of the Gott affair.

The popular view of spying involves hidden cameras, dead-letter drops, clandestine meetings and the whole paraphernalia of gathering and passing on classified information. In war, much of this effort is based on the need to know the enemy's strengths and immediate plans, many of which have a short shelf-life.

In more leisurely times, espionage by influence is potentially much more damaging. For example, decisions affecting our future military capabilities are in theory taken after long deliberations scrutinised by many committees. In practice, the whole procedure is open to strong-minded and hostile individual influences, right up to the stage of the final ministerial signature. Those influences can come from anywhere, whether politician, civil servant, defence scientist or academic, or even from serving officers.

Suborn one or two key people from each of these groups and instruct them which way to work, and the process, unlike conventional spying, has no risks and leaves no traces other than "red gold". At least Gott worked for the open press.

Gordievsky should be encouraged to reveal all he knows, even though this will go against the instincts of an Establishment which hates witch hunts, and the British public who prefer the cock-up to the conspiracy theory of governmental failures.

Even if the evidence is insufficient to bring someone to court, those who have sold their country in the last forty years should at least be made to sweat. It will discourage others from entering the same swamp.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE,
Editor, *Jane's Fighting Ships*,
Foundry House,
Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.

From Mr William M. Clarke

Sir, Mike Hyde's experience with the persistent inquiries from the Soviet trade delegation (letter, December 13) was mirrored, almost precisely, a decade or more earlier, between the late 1940s and the early 1960s, when I was on *The Manchester Guardian* and *The Times*. The ubiquitous "Mr John Brown" of MI5 (or was it MI6?) was already on the alert. Sometimes he appeared from the Foreign Office; sometimes claiming journalistic interest. It rarely curbed Soviet curiosity, or persistence.

I came to the conclusion that the simple act of initiating action of any sort earned kudos for the trade delegation back in Moscow, almost irrespective of the outcome. On one occasion the Soviet financial attaché, from whom I wanted details of Soviet gold sales, handed me a long printed list of trade and financial questions before we had even ordered lunch, but never raised the matter again, then or later. Perhaps he realised that *The Manchester Guardian* in those days offered less fertile ground than it apparently did later.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CLARKE,
37 Park Vista, Greenwich, SE10.
December 14.

Tate paintings blush unseen

From Mrs Jenny Pery

Sir, What exactly are the Tate Gallery's obligations to the public in their role as guardians of some of the nation's works of art? Over the past five years I have been involved in organising retrospective exhibitions of three lesser-known 20th-century English painters — Solomon J. Solomon, Claude Rogers and John Dodson — whose very best work is in the Tate collection, often there as a result of a family bequest.

On each occasion my request for a loan of the paintings — necessary focal points in the exhibitions — has been refused. Many different reasons for refusal have been given, the oddest being that the picture (one of Solomon's) was not in a fit condition to show.

None of the paintings requested has ever been on show on the walls of the Tate. Each of the pictures I required for a public airing had a relatively low intrinsic value — its historical interest being paramount — and in each case the exhibition took place in a reputable gallery equipped with the necessary security arrangements.

Why does the Tate impose such restrictions on its ever-growing collection? Is the public, to whom these pictures supposedly belong, *never* to see the more minor paintings which lurk in its storerooms?

Britain has always produced a rich and eccentric collection of talented, thoughtful, sensitive and underrated painters. The best of their work seems destined to blush unseen.

Yours truly,
JENNY PERY,
Holne Brake, Bovey Tracey, Devon.
December 24.

Bankside competition

From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir, Professor Sir Edmund Happold, in his letter of December 19, complains of the exclusion of building engineers from the Tate Gallery's competition for its planned conversion of the redundant power station at Bankside into a new Gallery of Modern Art.

The competition is intended to select an architect and not a design; but this does not mean that the trustees have no aspirations for a high quality of creative engineering. Indeed, they have benefited from first-class engineering advice throughout the initial feasibility studies and in the development of the competition.

The gallery has recently advertised for structural and building services engineers for Bankside. We expect them to make a significant creative contribution to all our projects, large and small. Those practices taking part in the competition will have ample opportunity to demonstrate their creative abilities.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SEROTA, Director,
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1.
December 20.

Vanishing ponds

From Dr Andrew Hull

Sir, We were dismayed at the response from Robert Atkins, the Environment Minister, to the loss of farmland ponds in the British countryside (report, December 21).

Northwest England has the highest concentration of ponds surviving in England and Wales, and our research shows that if current loss rates continue, there will be few of these small, but vitally important, wetland habitats present by the middle of the next century.

Despite the degree of optimism expressed by the minister and the promise of a national pond survey in 1996, existing mechanisms for pond protection in northwest England have proved largely ineffective.

Perhaps one solution worth considering would be to introduce more environmentally sensitive use of set-aside which would reward farmers for protecting and managing this traditional farmland habitat.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HULL,
Ponds Research Unit,
Liverpool John Moores University,
School of Social Science,
Trueman Building,
15-21 Webster Street,
Liverpool 3.
December 22.

London's cars and parking dilemma

From Mr Peter Cuming

Sir, Your headline "Car commuters to be squeezed in roads U-turn" (report, December 19) seems to be extravagant in using the term "U-turn". Stephen Norris, the Transport Minister for London, so far seems to have undergone only the initial stage of a Pauline Damascene conversion experience, in so far as he has been struck down and cannot see a thing.

To welcome the Heathrow Express, Jubilee Line extension and Channel Tunnel rail link as significant alternative transport for the motorist is indicative of how out of touch our transport planners have become.

One will connect air travellers to one of London's least accessible rail termini — Paddington. Another will connect central London to a largely uninhabited dockland and the last when it arrives will dump continental passengers at an already seriously overloaded hub of the Underground network — King's Cross/St Pancras.

How Mr Norris can believe that any of these developments will be welcomed by motorists is a mystery, like most of British transport policy.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CUMING,
34 Savernake Road, NW3.
December 19.

From Mr T. W. Wiseman

Sir, That the Government is to reduce the number of car-parking spaces in new developments in London is an ideal opportunity for MPs to show us the way by reducing the number of spaces available to them in the Palace of Westminster. If part of their car park were converted to office and storage space it might stop their continual moaning about lack of facilities and could even give the Leader of the Opposition a secure office.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE W. WISEMAN,
Conway House, Kilnwell Road,
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire.

From Mr John Tovey

Sir, Your report says that car-parking spaces are being reduced from 359 to just 22 when the Department of Transport moves to its new headquarters. Twenty-two seems a strange number. Is that more to do with available space, or the number of people who make the rules?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TOVEY,
18 Highfields Drive, Bilsthorpe,
Newark, Nottinghamshire.
December 20.

Sanctity of the home

From the Reverend Beverley Coleman

Sir, It was I who baptised Jonathan Powell in 1960 (letter, December 13), in his parents' house in the Sumatra jungle. I have also had, on two occasions, to baptise children at sea.

The first was on board the P&O *Corfu* in 1954, and I retain a printed card recording all the details, including latitude and longitude. I had some difficulty with the other, on the ill-fated *Willem Ruys* (later the *Achille Lauro*), which was then a Dutch ship. However, the font in both cases was the ship's bell.

In those days, by the way, all baptisms at sea were customarily registered at St Dunstan and All Saints, Stepney, known as the Church of the High Seas.

Yours faithfully,
BEVERLEY WARREN COLEMAN,
44 Walnut Crescent, Fruitlands,
Malvern Wells, Worcestershire.

Witch-craft

From Mr J. H. A. Desmond

Sir, How fortunate are the students of Leeds University to have a chaplain resolute in proclaiming it wrong, as an act of worship, "to have sex with the high priest at full moon" (report, December 12).

Could the reverend lady be persuaded please to advise your readers as to when, of the phases of the moon, such an act of worship would be right?

Yours faithfully,
J. H. A. DESMOND,
2 Château des Roches,
Le Mont Gras d'Eau,
St Brelade, Jersey.

Plain sailing

From Mr Donald MacIntosh

Sir, No doubt Cunard is the subject of well deserved criticism over the QE2 (letters, December 21, 22, 24). However, a few weeks ago my wife and I returned from a ten-day cruise in the Pacific, starting in Sydney, on another Cunard ship. I can only say that it would be difficult to fault the experience.

We boarded ship with a minimum of fuss. We were served tea sailing out of Sydney harbour, and found our baggage in our cabin afterwards. Meals were consistently good, and the multinational crew pleasant and attentive.

Films relevant to the itinerary were shown on cabin TV and the nightly entertainment could have graced any West End stage. Everyone I spoke to had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Incidentally the ship was built in Spain and registered in Panama. It seems as if in the rundown of our merchant fleet and shipbuilding capacity we are accomplishing what the U-boat failed to do.

Since cruising is a rapid-growth industry, can we not halt the terminal decline in these industries? If Mr Major wants to put the Great back in Britain (letter, December 22), I suggest he start here.

Yours,
DONALD MacINTOSH,
Casa do Canto,
39 Highland Road,
Turret Park, Crieff, Perthshire.
December 24.

Liberal disposal

From Dr Tim Bradshaw

Sir, It is becoming clearer that we have a liberal government in power rather than a conservative one. Would it prove an interesting holiday game to list the institutions which have not been "conserved" by HM Government over the past few years? Perhaps I might begin with St Bartholomew's Hospital, the coal industry, Sunday, and Rover?

TIM BRADSHAW,
54 St Giles, Oxford.
December 23.

Better in than out?

From Mr Stephen Sellers

Sir, Can someone please explain to me why anyone would want to escape from Whitemoor prison (reports and leading article, December 20)?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SELLERS,
76 Trinity Road, Four Oaks,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Glenn Miller memory

From Mrs Mary Sims

Sir, Mr Victor Sylvester Jr says (letter, December 21) that he has never heard it mentioned that Paul Dudley was Glenn Miller's companion on the ill-fated flight. The reason is simply that Paul was not on that flight.

At the time I was receptionist at the Mount Royal Hotel, which was Glenn and Paul's London base. They left the hotel together for their base in Bedford and the flight to Paris.

When we heard the news of the air crash and Glenn Miller's death, we naturally assumed that Paul had also perished. To our great surprise he walked into the hotel some time later, alive and well, and I spoke with him.

Yours faithfully,
MARY SIMS,
Maltings, The Green,
Foxton, Cambridge.

Bread sauce

From Mrs Jan Prebble

Sir, Whatever has happened to bread sauce? I have now eaten in three restaurants purporting to serve a "traditional" dinner at Christmas with "all the trimmings" and there has been no sign of this absolutely delicious, very traditional and quite essential trimming, which complements the turkey meat so perfectly.

Yours sincerely,
JAN PREBBLE,
905 Nelson House,
Dolphin Square, SW1.
December 26.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Miss Anne Armstrong, American diplomat, 67; Viscount Astor, 43; Sir Gordon Brunton, former president, International Thomson Organisation, 73; Captain N.F. Crump, racehorse trainer, 84; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Devitt, shipbroker and former rugby player, 92; Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, 53; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, 77; Viscount Knutsford, 68; Miss Pat Moss, former rally driver, 60; Professor D.H. Northcote, former master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 73; Sir William Purves, banker, 63; Professor B.R. Rees, former principal, St David's University College, Lampeter, 75; Sir Norman Reid, former director, Tate Gallery, 79; Dr E.C. Salthouse, master, University College, Durham, 59; Lord Sterling of Plaistow, 60; Miss Janet Street-Porter, broadcaster, 48; Miss Polly Toynbee, journalist and broadcaster, 48; the Right Rev A.M.A. Turnbull, Bishop of Durham, 59; Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, former director, WRAC, 91.



Gerard Depardieu, the actor, is 46 today

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Johannes Kepler, astronomer, Weil der Stadt, Germany, 1571; Sir George Cayley, pioneer of aerodynamics, Scarborough, 1773; Louis Pasteur, chemist and bacteriologist, Dôle, France, 1822; Marlene Dietrich, actress, Berlin, 1901.

DEATHS: Pierre de Ronsard, poet, Tours, 1585; George Barrington, pickpocket and writer, Parramatta, 1804; William Jay, dissenting minister, Bath, 1853; William Armstrong, Baron Armstrong, inventor, Northumberland, 1900; William Archer, journalist and dramatic critic, London, 1924; Sergy Yesenin, poet, Leningrad, 1925; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, New York, 1950; Lester Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada 1963-68, Ottawa, 1972; Houari Boumedienne, President of Algeria 1965-78, Algiers, 1978; Hoagy Carmichael, pianist and composer, Palm Springs, California, 1981.

Charles Darwin set sail in *HMS Beagle* from Plymouth on his voyage of scientific discovery, 1831.

The first performance of J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* took place at the Duke of York's Theatre, London, 1904.

The Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts came into effect in Britain, 1975.

Forthcoming marriage

Mr M.C. Hare
and Miss P.A. Tomlin

The engagement is announced between Michael Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Hare, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, and Pauline Ann, youngest daughter of Mr Robert Tomlin and the late Mrs Dorothy Tomlin, of Rayleigh, Essex.

CRISPIN RODWELL



The architects, left to right, Dermot O'Hagan and Ciaran Mussen with Peter Rossiter, hotel manager, in front of the Downshire Arms

Community pride finds a focus in new hotel

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A COMMUNITY group in Hilltown, Co Down, who converted a derelict courthouse in their village into a smart hotel, has won the Rural Issues section of *The Times* Community Enterprise Awards.

The Clonduff Development Enterprise (CDE) raised £30,000 in Hilltown towards the costs of renovating the early 19th-century building which they described as a symbol of the area's economic decline.

They raised the rest of the money, which came to nearly £1 million, with grants and loans from the Department of the Environment, the International Fund for Ireland and Newry and Mourne District Council. The Downshire Arms Hotel, which dominates the village of Hilltown in the picturesque countryside between Newry and the Mourne Mountains, is now a thriving business catering for office parties and wedding receptions.

Dermot O'Hagan, vice-chairman of the CDE, says that the building, which had been derelict for six years, was in such a poor state that it had to be gutted. "The roof had gone, the windows were non-existent, the floors were rotten and there was water penetration everywhere," he says. "We just worked from the shell of the building." The community group appointed a local architectural firm and a local structural engineer and quantity surveyor. The building work was put out to competitive tender and was completed on target last autumn.

Smaller buildings in the courtyard had to be demolished because they were in such a poor state. But pillars from the old building were used in the construction of self-catering apartments. Ciaran Mussen, who helped with the design, said that preserving the pillars was a painstaking but worthwhile job: "Each stone had to be numbered, photographed and then put back in place."

A local hotelier now runs the establishment, which has two function rooms, a restaurant and seven self-catering apartments. The hotel employs ten full-time staff and 20 part-timers. Peter Rossiter, the manager, says: "Business is good. People are coming from a 40-mile radius."

Mr O'Hagan says that the project has acted as an important catalyst for the revitalisation of Hilltown. "It has renewed a sense of pride in the village. People didn't feel that before." He says that new businesses have been attracted to the village and shopkeepers have smartened up their premises.

The community group also hopes the hotel will attract tourists on their way to the Mourne Mountains. "We want to market Hilltown as a better way of travelling there."

The refurbishment of the Downshire Arms Hotel has won the Rural Issue award, supported by the Rural Development Commission, in the 1994 Community Enterprise Awards sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross and organised by Business in the Community. The awards will be presented by the Prince of Wales in Manchester on February 8.

Latest wills

Recent estates include:

Sir Anthony Gerald Roderick **Rouse**, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, retired diplomat, former Consul-General in New York, left estate valued at £76,272 net.

Mr Oswald Stevens **Nock**, of Batheaston, Bath, the railway historian and engineer, left estate valued at £113,207 net.

Margaret Gertrude **Fulks**, of Bexhill, East Sussex, formerly of St Leonards, left estate valued at £544,224 net.

She left personal legacies totalling £7,000, £5,000 each to the East Sussex Group of the Spastics Society, Hastings, Christian Action, and the Dominique Pire Foundation, Huy, Belgium, £4,000 to the Hastings and Bexhill Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, and the residue equally between Shelter, British Red Cross Society and Oxfam.

Mr Ernest Thomas Henry **Jessop**, of St Michaels, Tenterden, Kent, left estate valued at £1,929,056 net. He died intestate.

Mr Isaac Louis **Benjamin**, of London SW13, the theatrical impresario, former head of Stoll Moss, left estate valued at £105,329 net.

Mr Guy Hugo **Southern**, of Bratton, Westbury, Wiltshire, solicitor, a partner in the international law firm Frere Cholmeley, who was for ten years solicitor to the Duchy of Lancaster, left estate valued at £1,259,851 net.

Mr Ronald Mervyn **Clarke**, of Cholderton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £2,428,564 net.

Mr Kenneth Georgee **Stephenson**, of Burgess Hill, West Sussex..... £733,473

Mr Leonard Royston William **Whiter**, of Enborne, Berkshire £1,128,884

Mrs Vera Mary **Allen**, of London N10..... £589,944

Mrs Grace **Dawson**, of West Ravendale, Grimsby, South Humberside £591,544

National Trust seeks £1m to buy castle

BY MARCUS BINNEY

THE National Trust is looking for a £1 million donation to enable it to buy one of the finest castles in northwest England. Appleby Castle in Cumbria stands in a magnificent hilltop position over the River Eden and comes with a separate well-preserved Norman keep, as well as numerous cottages and 30 acres of ground.

Martin Drury, director designate of the Trust, says: "This is a very romantic and beautiful place, the climax of one of the most perfect small towns in England."

The castle is famous above all for its association with Lady Anne Clifford, who ranks with Bess of Hardwick as one of the great women builders of English history. A committed royalist, she returned to the region on the execution of Charles I and became a great public benefactor, restoring castles and churches damaged in the Civil War and building almshouses.

The castles has been put on the market by Fergusson International Holdings which has restored the property over the last 15 years, using it as a headquarters and training centre, but regularly opening it to the public. The company is moving south.

Oliver Maurice, the trust director in the North West, said: "It will be an economic disaster for the town if the castle closes its gates. It has 40,000 visitors a year and is a major catalyst for local trade."

Acquisition by the trust would enable the castle's collection of paintings to be returned. It was purchased by the Abbot Hall Art Gallery in 1981 with a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, but only some of the 60 pictures are on display.

Alastair Laing, curator of paintings at the National Trust, says: "This is one of the most remarkable survivals of a collection of portraits of a major family in the land. There are magnificent full-lengths in splendid frames and a spectacular secular triptych, already on loan to the castle, showing Lady Anne at three stages of her life and describing her family, education and achievements."

The historian John Harris says: "Appleby is like a great French or Irish town. The street leads straight up to the castle. At the bottom is the church with a splendid heraldic tombs of Lady Anne and her mother. At the top, by the castle gate are Lady Anne's almshouses. The grounds are still recognisably an ancient deer park with magnificent views down to the river and across to the hills."

John Martin Robinson, an architectural historian who lives near by, says: "This is a great historic house which passed by descent from the reign of James I until it was sold in 1962. There is nothing like it in the North West. We are concerned it will be bought by a developer who will sell off the cottages and obtain planning permission to build in the grounds."

University news

London

Queen Mary and Westfield College

Faculty of Laws

Appointments

Drapers' Chair of Law: Dr Alan Norrie, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, University of Warwick

Chair of Law: Professor Katherine O'Donovan, Professor of Family Law and Legal Theory, University of Kent

Herchel Smith Chair of Intellectual Property Law: Professor James C Lahore, University of Melbourne

Professorial Research Fellow: Dr S D M McConville.

Promotions:

Ms Genevra Richardson (Reader), Professor of Public Law; Mr John Yelland (Senior Lecturer), Professor of Law; Mr C M Reed (Senior Lecturer), Reader in Information Technology Law; Ms Geraldine Van Bueren (Lecturer), Senior Lecturer.

Other appointments:

Professor Ian Fletcher to be Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies; Professor John Yelland to be Head of the Department of Law.

Manchester

Professor Wilfred Robin McDonough to be Director of Information Systems from March 1, 1995

Simon John Bulmer, Reader in Government, to be Professor of Government from a date to be arranged

Norman Myron Geras, at present Reader in Government, to be Professor of Government from a date to be arranged

David Cesarani, at present Director of the Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library, London, and Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at University College London, to be Professor of Judaism in Modern Times in the Department of Religions and Theology from a date to be arranged

Dr Pedro Ricardo Lowenstein, at present Lister Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Neuroscience at the University of Wales College of Cardiff, to be Lister Institute Professor of Molecular Medicine and Gene Therapy from a date to be arranged.

Professor Anatoly I Ruban, at present Professor in the Department of Aeromechanics and Flying Technics of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and Head of the Viscous Fluid Dynamics Department in the Central Aerohydrodynamic Institute (TsAGI), Moscow, to be Professor of Computational Fluid Dynamics in the Department of Mathematics and in the Manchester School of Engineering.

Richard John Balment, at present Reader in Zoology in the School of Biological Sciences, to be Professor of Zoology from January 1, 1995.

Appointments

Senior Lecturer (non-clinical) in Medicine, Catherine M Kielty; Senior Lecturer in Transplant Immunology in the Department of Medicine, Trudie E Roberts; Lecturer in Civil Engineering, Daoyi Chen; Lecturer in Communications in the Manchester School of Engineering, Timothy O'Farrell; Lecturer in Pure Mathematics, Richard Sharp; Alumni Officer in the Registrar and Secretary's Department, Janice E Lancaster; Head of Cataloguing in the John Rylands University Library, Sandra J Bracegirdle.

Grants

Recent grants include:

British Heart Foundation: *Molecular signals and vascular remodelling in hypertension*, Dr M J Humphries, Dr V Ohanian and Professor A M Heagerty, £97,783; *Mast cells and atherosclerosis*, Dr D E Woolley, £63,683

EU: *Molecular physics of excited state dynamics*, Professor R Grice and Professor F H Read, £86,250

Enterprise Oil: *Support for Research Associate*, Dr C R Hughes, £183,040.

Fraunhofer-Gesell-Silicat: *Development of nano-structured functional ceramic/metal composites*, Dr C Leach, £149,770.

Glaxo Group Research: *The role EIB-mediated disruption of the nuclear laminar and its significance for the suppression of apoptosis*, Dr C Dive, £48,000.

Ministry of Defence: *Visible laser development and assessment*, Professor T A King, £27,940.

MRC: *Characterisation of a family of human heterochromatin-associated DNA repeat sequences*, Dr J E Hewitt, £141,722.

Norsk Hydro: *Burial diagenesis in the Gullfaks Field*, Dr S D Burley, £47,720.

NWRHA: *The antecedents of suicide by young people*, Dr L Appleby, £52,613.

Thorn Charity Trust: *Aetiology of abnormal calcium homeostasis in diabetic mothers and their offspring*, Dr R J Balment, Dr H O Garland, Dr C P Sibley and Professor R D H Boyd, £83,868.

Can osteoblast cultures be used in place of bone graft in orthopaedic surgery? Dr C E Evans and Mr J B Williamson, £31,433.

Wellcome Trust: *Maternal nutrition and placental amino acid transporter activity in relation to foetal growth*, Dr C P Sibley and Ms J D Glazier, £27,732.

Bath

Promotions

Dr Malcolm Sainsbury, currently Reader in Chemistry and Dr Ian H Williams, currently Reader in Chemistry, have been promoted to Personal Chairs.

Stirling

A personal chair in Philosophy has been awarded to Dr Alan Millar, Head of Department of Philosophy from 1988 until 1994 and Senior Lecturer in Philosophy since 1991.

J S Grant Reid to a new Chair in Plant Biochemistry.

Archaeology

Early dwellings found preserved in estuary

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WOODEN buildings and trackways nearly 2,400 years old have been excavated below high tide mark in the Severn estuary. The remarkable conditions of preservation include "thousands of cattle hoofprints" around the buildings, according to Dr Martin Bell of the University of Wales at Lampeter.

The site lies on the Welsh shore between the Severn Bridge and Newport, where the river widens into the Bristol Channel. It is exposed for only six hours a day at low tide, and is often obscured by mud.

The bonus has been that the constant waterlogging has protected the timbers of the buildings, and one exceptionally well-preserved house has been totally removed for reconstruction at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. Its walls are of oak planks, and both radiocarbon and tree-ring dating place the settlement around 400 BC.

Fourteen trackways, most of them of brushwood and rails pegged on to the surface of the mud, have been found. One substantial track consisted of diagonally-driven stakes supporting a raised timber and brushwood walkway across flooded marshland, and has been traced for 100 yards out towards the river.

Part of a Bronze Age plank-built boat has been found, dated by its tree rings to around 1,000 BC, and traces of a Mesolithic settlement thousands of years earlier still have been encountered. These settlers, of around 6500 BC apparently burnt local woodland as part of their gathering and hunting activities.

The Goldcliff settlement stood on a low island in what was then a bog, which in prehistoric times covered much of the area east of Cardiff; it was later drowned by rising sea level, only to be discovered in 1990 by Derek Upton, a Llanwern steelworker and amateur archaeologist.

"The zone between Newport and the new Severn Bridge appears to be the richest area of intertidal archaeology yet found in Britain," Dr Bell said. "These discoveries highlight the potential of the intertidal zone where the sea is cutting into ancient peat bogs and river channels, which are key contexts for the survival of waterlogged archaeological sites."

Since their discovery, the Iron Age houses have been excavated in as much secrecy as possible because of the vulnerability of the site on a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), and because of the dangerous nature of the intertidal area, Dr Bell said.

The project had been successfully completed, but there had been "catastrophic" tidal damage earlier this year. Also, development pressure around the new Severn crossing was threatening the survival of an entire, and until now amazingly preserved, prehistoric landscape.

City centre dig reveals big medieval friary

BY NORMAN HAMMOND

ONE of the largest medieval friaries in England has been uncovered in the centre of Lincoln. Lying on the site of the city's new central library, this earlier centre of learning and contemplation had two cloisters and a large church.

The Franciscan friary occupied the site from around AD 1230 until its suppression by Henry VIII in 1539. It covered an entire block in the southeastern quarter of the former Romari town, bounded on the east by the surviving Roman city wall.

One building, the Greyfriars, still survives in good condition: it is believed to be "the most complete example of a first-generation Franciscan building in the country", according to Mike Jarvis of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit.

"It is thought to represent the friary's first chapel, and was converted into an infirmary, guesthouse or hall around 1270," he said. A large part of the refectory was uncovered, revealing a 15th-century floor of glazed Flemish tiles and a large external chimney. Next door was the kitchen, with hearths constructed from recycled roof tiles.

An open area in the angle between the kitchen and refectory buildings is thought to have been a "little cloister", with a cloister walk running north to the Great Cloister on the south side of the friary church. A building with buttressed walls may, it is thought, be the remains of the Guildhall given by the Franciscans to the city of Lincoln in 1237.

Archaeologists will continue to monitor the contractors' work on the new library into 1995, when, Mr Jarvis said, "it is hoped more of this important site will be revealed".

Source: *Rescue News* 62: 4-5.

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You must keep your head whatever happens: put up with hardship, work to spread the gospel, discharge all the duties of your calling. 2 Timothy 4 : 5 (REB)

BIRTHS

FADER - On 27th November 1994, at Kingston Hospital, to proud parents David and Claire, a beautiful son, Theo Alexander.

DEATHS

ANDREWS - On December 21st 1994, at home, in his 93rd year, Norman Frederick Stewart OBE. Sadly missed by his children and grandchildren. Funeral Service will take place at Eastbourne Crematorium on Friday January 6th at 11.30 am. Flowers to Funeral Directors. Tel: (0435) 862648.

BROWNE - On December 23rd Colonel Ernest Colguy Browne OBE, QHDS, peacefully at home aged 90 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret and the late Victoria. Beloved father of John and Gillian and loving step-father of Diane and Victoria. Funeral Thursday December 29th at 2 pm at St Peter's Freshford, near Bath. Donations to Cancer Research rather than flowers.

DEATHS

DINWIDDY - Caroline Lesley (née Frank). Suddenly on 23rd December 1994 aged 55 years. Wife of the late John and mother of Emma and Rachel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OBITUARIES

JOHN OSBORNE

John Osborne, playwright, actor and author, died on Christmas Eve in a Shrewsbury hospital aged 65. He was born on December 12, 1929.



MAY 8, 1956 was a crucial night in the fortunes of John Osborne and the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square. It also proved to be a landmark in the history of postwar British drama. Even so, the opening of *Look Back in Anger* was a fairly low-key affair. The male leads, Kenneth Haigh and Alan Bates, were just beginning to make a reputation: Mary Ure, the young Scottish actress who played Alison, was slightly better known: she had caused a minor stir in Anouilh's *Time Remembered*. Practically no one had heard of the author, John Osborne, who had spent most of his career until then appearing with minor repertory companies.

The notices in the daily papers were dismissive, although word got out that T. C. Worsley, wisest of theatre judges, admired it and had dissuaded his companion for the evening, Terence Rattigan, from leaving at half-time. When the Sundays came out it was a different story: Harold Hobson and Ken Tynan both hailed a new talent. The box office at the Court, where advance bookings had been miserable, began to do business and the company assembled by George Devine, who was to rule at Sloane Square until his death ten years later, had its first big success.

George Fearon, who looked like a walrus and barked like a walrus, an improbable PR man for the left-wing Court, invented the phrase "Angry Young Man" over a drink with Osborne. A new style of theatre was born and a new label was presented for the use of journalists over the next couple of decades. But no one would have believed that thirty years later *Look Back in Anger* would be a set book in schools. It simply secured the immediate future for its author and the Court.

Afterwards John Osborne was probably to write better plays than *Anger*. *Luther* was one and *A Patriot for Me*, which showed its strength on revival, was another. But this first success was to show Osborne's mastery of invective and the blistering monologue, via his chosen spokesman, Jimmy Porter. Osborne was to use this skill time and again, perhaps most notoriously in a letter known as "Damn You, England" published in *Tribune* in 1961 in which he castigated his native country for sins, real and imagined. It would have caused even more offence than it did had it been known that Osborne composed it between poolside drinks in a private house above the Côte d'Azur.

The letter was seditious, just as Jimmy Porter's outbursts were seditious. Osborne had built up a head of steam against many matters and attitudes British during an unhappy childhood and adolescence. His father died early of TB, as did his baby sister. Osborne chronicled his upbringing in some squalid detail and with much honesty in the first and more brilliant volume of his memoirs, *A Better Class of Person* (1981). His spleen was mainly reserved for his mother, referred to always as Nellie Beatrice, and the story of how she was blown off the lavatory by a wartime bomb is told with especial relish. Nellie Beatrice fared little better in volume two, *Almost a Gentleman* (1991), where some of her witless letters showing total incomprehension of her son's fame and acclaim are mockingly reprinted.

Having been educated at Belmont College in Devon, Osborne found his first days in the theatre were much akin to the experiences of Nicholas Nickleby with the Vincent Crummles company. Doubling up as an assistant stage manager, he made his debut at the Lyceum, Sheffield, in *No Room at the Inn* (1948), a drama considered daring enough at the time to command a few music-hall dates as well as ones in the straight theatre. He took the title role in a Hayling Island *Hamlet*. Life with indifferent repertory companies provided much of the raw material for the matrimonial scenes of *Look Back in Anger*, but not, as has been suggested, for *The Entertainer*, which was based on a much deeper love for the British music hall and in particular for the art of Max Miller.

While treading the boards in juvenile leads Osborne wrote his first plays, nearly always in collaboration. His partner on *The Devil Inside Him* was an early girlfriend, Stella Linden, and it was performed at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, in 1954. With Anthony Creighton, a homosexual actor who flitted in and out of Osborne's life, came *Personal Enemy* and *Epitaph for George Dillon*. The latter was performed at the Royal Court (directed by Bill Gaskill) and on Broadway after the successes of *Look Back* and *The Entertainer*.

The Royal Court was to be John Osborne's theatrical home for the decade which followed 1955. It housed the two great influences on his life: George Devine, who somehow kept the house alive despite rolling arguments with his board, and the director Tony Richardson. Together they persuaded Laurence Olivier to make one of his increasingly rare excursions into contemporary drama in *The Entertainer* (1957). Olivier spotted its potential at once and even visited some of the dwindling number of London's music halls. Archie Rice became one of his most celebrated roles and happily it has been preserved on film, although the movie version of 1960 (also directed by Richardson) cannot compare with the impact the play made on stage. The film was, however, infinitely superior to the BBC TV production — with all the music changed — transmitted with Michael Gambon in the eponymous role in 1993.

Behind the surface sleaze of *The Entertainer* some of the more astute critics saw the influence of Brecht, one of the Royal Court's household gods, creeping into Osborne's work. He was certainly to have an effect on *Luther*. But before that Osborne wrote a musical, *The World of Paul Slickey*, which was in part a revenge on the gossip columnists who had been pursuing him. Osborne was news: he and the Court were in regular trouble with the Lord Chamberlain's office over dialogue considered "offensive" and his own private life could usually be relied on to provide a paragraph or two. He had divorced his first wife, Pamela Lane, and relations with his second, Mary Ure (Alison of *Look Back in Anger*), were known to be stormy. But, for once in his life, John Osborne was not sharp enough. With Dennis Lotis far too nice in the title role of the reptilian reporter, *Paul Slickey*, which opened to a fanfare of publicity at the Palace Theatre on May 5, 1959, was a flop.

On *Luther* (1961) there could be no such accusations of shallowness. It established Albert Finney, first at the Court and then on Broadway, as a stage actor of the first magnitude. Osborne proved that he could create marvellous roles for the best actors of the day and give them speeches to show their prowess in the way that Verdi and Rossini made tenors go out and prove themselves. *Inadmissible Evidence* (1964), in a lower and less Brechtian key, was another exercise in monologue only interrupted occasionally, with Nicol Williamson as an outwardly respectable solicitor this time entering the confessional on matters of conscience.

The largest scale of Osborne's plays for the Court was *A Patriot for Me* (1965). The subject, homosexuality and blackmail in the imperial Austrian army, involved another thoroughly enjoyable tussle with the Lord Chamberlain. The drag ball scene, which included a virtuoso performance from Devine himself, achieved considerable notoriety — the idea had been born in a conversation with Christopher Isherwood and his companion, Don Bachardy.

By this time John Osborne was already heavily involved in the British cinema. He won an Oscar for his screenplay of *Tom Jones* (1963), which had done as much to establish Albert Finney as a film star as *Luther* had done for his stage reputation. With Tony Richardson he formed Woodfall Films, named after the Chelsea street where Osborne lived for some time, which brought to the screen his own plays and those of contemporaries such as Shelagh Delaney.

His other involvement was with the film critic Penelope Gilliatt, wife of the neurologist Roger Gilliatt, who had been best man at Tony Armstrong-Jones's marriage to Princess Margaret. Fictitious film festivals, including an improbable one at Folkestone, were invented to provide alibis for weekends away. The marriage with Mary Ure was dissolved in 1963 and the same year Osborne married Mrs Gilliatt. Five years later this marriage, too, was dissolved and the fourth Osborne wife was the actress Jill Bennett, who inspired the fiercest of his many misogynistic outbursts.

In 1966 Osborne deserted his nest at the Royal Court to rework a Lope de Vega drama for the National under the title of *A Bond Honoured*. The attraction was a protagonist who justified his evil doings in the name of freedom, but it proved a drab evening. He was happier in two later pieces for the Court, both dealing with contemporary themes and attitudes. *The Hotel in Amsterdam* (1968) had sharp, up-to-the-minute dialogue and elicited a marvellous performance from Paul Scofield. *West of Suez* (1971) returned to Osborne's nostalgia for past times and standards and allowed him to wallow in the mire of current decline. The mouthpiece this time was Ralph Richardson.

Osborne's chosen spokesmen were always male. He pursued women and they pursued him — nothing is more harrowing, he once wrote, than the cold sexual appraisal of a woman's eyes. But in virtually all his major plays they had only supporting roles. Osborne was at his best writing for gladiators, especially rather moth-eaten ones.

After he divorced Jill Bennett in 1977 amid much acrimony — he normally referred to her as Adolf, not least for her autocratic ways — a new Osborne began to emerge. Or perhaps it was a case of Cincinnatus retiring to his farm. Sloane Square's favourite scourge made his home on the Kent-Surrey border with his fifth wife Helen Dawson, a former arts journalist and one-time dramatic critic on *The Observer*.

A slight figure with a quiet authority all of her own, she fairly quickly had a notably calming effect on Osborne and he took on some of the manners and dress of a country squire especially after they went off to live near Clun in Shropshire in 1986. He grew a trim beard, wore country clothes (though almost invariably with a cravat — he was never anything but elegant) and chatted in the local pub. Osborne enjoyed playing his new role quite as much as any of the parts he had appeared in on stage. Interviewers who tramped up the hill to his 1812 mansion were properly surprised by the almost benign countenance that greeted them. One was told roundly that the marriage to Helen was so successful because "she is not ambitious" (in fact, she is a very good writer who effectively "ghosted" some of her husband's later journalistic pieces).

The new, more placid Osborne was far less prolific and, apart from occasional forays (like his protest in a letter to *The Times* against the disappearance of Turkish cigarettes), began to disappear from the public eye. The television plays he wrote in the early 1980s were not of great consequence and his treatment of Handel (directed by Tony Palmer) for Channel 4's *God Rot Tunbridge Wells!* (1985) was far less sensational than its title suggested.

But fusillades were still fired off from time to time — notably in *The Spectator*, where the old dramatist soon proved himself a master diarist. On television *A Full Life* (also for Channel 4) allowed Osborne to take aim at his favourite targets — wives, theatre critics and abroad among them. In 1985 the National Theatre planned a revival of *The Entertainer* with Alan Bates in the Olivier part, but Osborne scuppered the project by refusing categorically to have Joan Plowright as the female lead. He claimed that there was no animosity between them, but some thought differently.

The highest-octane Osborne derision was, though, mainly reserved for his well spaced memoirs: there was a ten-year gap between the publication of the first volume and the second one, *Almost a Gentleman* (1991). Both showed that the old hand had not lost its cunning when it came to throwing vitriol. At the receiving end Nellie Beatrice remained in the lead, with Jill Bennett, Mary Ure and Penelope Gilliatt following closely. The Lord Chamberlain was merely a runner-up.

During a television interview coinciding with the publication of the second volume of his autobiography Osborne, looking almost chastened, admitted that much of his life in the 1970s and early 1980s was "a big, black hole". But the verbal wit survived, leading to corruscating attacks on the new Osborne enemies: liberals, trendy clergy, do-gooders, "counsellors" (all of whom were ridiculed in his last play *Déjàvu*, a rather sad sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, which ran only for a matter of weeks at the Comedy Theatre in the summer of 1992).

As victims of his rage, such figures had by the end, rather too predictably, replaced mere theatre critics and ex-wives. But Osborne's was an exceptional talent — even when accompanied by sulphur — and it was a tragedy that it should have illuminated the British stage as briefly as it did.

Three of his four ex-wives predeceased him and he is survived by his fifth wife, Helen, and a daughter from his third marriage to Penelope Gilliatt.

BASIL HERBERTSON

Basil Herbertson, pathologist, died in Cambridge on December 11 aged 73. He was born on September 12, 1921.



BASIL HERBERTSON was a teacher in the pathology department of Cambridge University for nearly forty years. As a researcher he was responsible for some interesting breakthroughs. His work on the pathology of organ transplantation helped Roy Calne in his pioneering liver transplant work at Addenbrooke's Hospital. He also worked on the inherited diseases of experimental animals and on factors controlling cell division.

Basil Marriott Herbertson was educated at Bootham School, York, and the Newcastle division of Durham University, where he read medicine. Qualifying as a doctor in 1943, he was given house appointments in medicine and surgery at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle. But, having been rejected on medical grounds by the armed forces, he then found he was able to join the Merchant Navy, serving as a ship's doctor.

After the war he settled in Cambridge where he began his long career as a pathologist. His first appointment was as a junior assistant pathologist in the university department of pathology and at Addenbrooke's Hospital. In 1948 he was appointed a university demonstrator and in 1953 a university lecturer. He investigated the relationship between hypersensitivity and disease, and this led to the award of an MD, from Durham University, in 1955.

Herbertson took to academic life with aplomb and combined his duties as a teacher with service pathology to Addenbrooke's. By 1968 he had been made a lecturer consultant in the NHS to Addenbrooke's and in 1974 a reader in histopathology in the university department — a rare distinction.

At the same time he juggled commitments to the University of Cambridge, and to Fitzwilliam House, as it was then known. He became the director of medical studies to Fitzwilliam House in 1951, an assistant tutor in 1956 (an office he carried on when it was renamed Fitzwilliam College in 1966) and was successively Fellow of Fitzwilliam from 1963 and president of the college from 1968 to 1972.

In 1975 he gave up his college commitments and his NHS consultancy to concentrate on teaching and research. But he soon found himself being pulled in other directions. The veterinary school in Cambridge was facing various problems, and Herbertson was appointed chairman of the Clinical Veterinary Medicine Syndicate, where he used his considerable energies to pull the school back into shape.

A fair-minded, charitable administrator, Herbertson was chairman of the Faculty Board of Biology "B", 1979-81, and thereafter joined the general board of the university, serving as chairman of the needs committee, and was on the council of the Senate.

He retired as a reader in pathology in 1984. For the next five years he was president of Hughes Hall, a postgraduate college in Cambridge. He was also chairman of the Botanic Gardens Syndicate and chairman of the board of governors of the Institute of Education, 1988-92, overseeing its incorporation into the university.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, two daughters and a son.

STUART ROOSA

Stuart Roosa, American astronaut, died on December 12 aged 61. He was born on August 16, 1933.



AS THE pilot of the command module on the Apollo 14 mission in February 1971, Stuart Roosa had the relatively unglamorous task of remaining in orbit around the Moon while his two companions, Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell, descended to explore a region of the lunar landscape known as Fra Mauro. Alone, out of radio contact and in total darkness for long periods, Roosa could only wait and hope that the landing module would rejoin him successfully, which it did.

Roosa said later that he actually enjoyed the solitude, and saw nothing extraordinary in his accomplishment: "Space changes nobody. You bring back from space what you bring into space." The Apollo 14 mission, the third to land on the Moon's surface, was destined to be Roosa's only space flight. He served as a backup command pilot for the final two lunar missions, Apollo 16 and 17.

Roosa was a straight-laced conservative family man. He began his career parachuting into remote areas of Colorado to fight forest fires while studying for his bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering at the University of Colorado.

After graduation, Roosa joined the US Air Force, rising to the rank of colonel and becoming an experimental test pilot at Edwards Air Force Base in California, the training ground for many future astronauts. He was one of 19 people selected for the astronaut class of 1966 when the corps was being expanded for the Apollo project.

Roosa worked on the early stages of the space shuttle programme until his retirement from the air force in 1976. At the time of his death he owned a beer distributorship in Gulfport, Mississippi.

He leaves his widow, three sons and a daughter.

Church appointments

The Rev Christopher Moody, Vicar, St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth (Southwark): to be Priest-in-charge, Market Harborough St Dionysius and Market Harborough The Transfiguration (Leicester).

The Rev Colin Spivey, Rector, Haworth (Bradford), and a substitute Prison Chaplain at Armley Prison: to be Vicar, St John the Divine, Thorpe Edge, Bradford (Bradford).

The Rev Brian Stamford, CMS Diocese of North Kigezi, Uganda: to be Honorary Priest-in-Charge of North Hill and Lewannick (Truro).

The Rev Canon George Warner, Team Rector, Caludon Team Ministry, based at Stoke St Michael's, Coventry: to be Priest-in-charge, All Saints, and Holy Trinity, Leamington Spa, and St James' Old Milverton (Coventry).

The Rev James Whitlock, Team Rector, Probus, Ladock, Grampound w. Creed and St Erme: to be Vicar, Penzance, St Mary w. St Paul (Truro).

The Rev David Craig, Chaplain to Missions to Seamen, Halifax, Nova Scotia: now Chaplain to Missions to Seamen, Immingham (Lincoln).

The Rev Dr Nicholas Cranfield, Fellow, Chaplain and Precentor of Selwyn College, Cambridge (Ely): now *also* Dean of Chapel of Selwyn College, Cambridge (Ely).

The Rev Stuart Darlison, Assistant Curate, Horncastle: to be Priest-in-charge, Welton, Dunholme and Scothern (Lincoln).

The Rev Alan Gadd, Hon Curate, All Saints, Battersea Park: to be Priest-in-charge, All Saints, Battersea Park (Southwark).

The Rev Peter Godden, Team Vicar, St Hugh's, North Hykeham: to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter at Gowt's, Lincoln (Lincoln).

The Rev Gary Jenkins, Priest-in-charge, St Peter, St Helier (Southwark): to be Vicar, St Peter, St Helier, same diocese.

The Rev Michael Long, Vicar, Cayton w Eastfield: to be *also* Rural Dean of Scarborough (York).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Kevin Robinson, Team Vicar, St Barnabas, Downham, Catford (Southwark): to resign as from February 28, 1995.

The Rev Herman Annis, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Northampton (Peterborough): to retire as from February 28, 1995.

The Rev John Gutteridge, Vicar, Walthamstow, St Gabriel (Chelmsford): to retire as from April 30, 1995.

The Rev Elisabeth Mordecai, Curate, Worcester City Parish (Worcester): retired as from November 30.

The Rev John Morgan, Priest-in-charge, Stanton St Quintin, Hullavington, Grittleton, Leigh Delamere, Norton and Littleton Drew (Bristol): to resign from the parishes of Grittleton and Leigh Delamere and Littleton Drew as from January 1, 1995. He will remain Priest-in-charge, Stanton St Quintin, Hullavington and Norton.

The Rev Victor Payne, Honorary Curate, All Saints, Sanderstead (Southwark): to retire as from January 16, 1995.

COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE

The new Christmas pantomime, which is denominated by "Hop o'-my Thumb and his brothers; or Harlequin and the Ogre," followed. The ordinary adjuncts of Christmas, the substantial cheer over which old friends rejoice, and in the discussion of which new friendships are formed, have lost none of their ancient celebrity. But one of the ministering deities of the season, the Genius of Pantomime, appears to have flown — *Stat nominis umbra*. That which is now called "pantomime" consists in a series of disjointed scenes, destitute of general aim or object, and equally destitute of isolated point or smartness. The entertainment of last night was precisely of this description. It is founded on the well-known nursery tale of Hop-o'-my Thumb and his Six Brothers, and in the opening or serio-comic part of the pantomime (which is by far the most amusing part of it) the original is pretty strictly adhered to. Hop-o'-my-Thumb (who was represented with much cleverness by Miss Poole) possesses wisdom far beyond his years. He defeats the machinations of Madoc Mawr, an ogre, into whose power he and his brethren have fallen, and he also rescues from the fangs of the monster, Llewellyn Bala, a Welsh Prince, and his betrothed spouse, the Pride of Snowdon. The genius of the harp, however, determines that the Prince shall not carry off his mistress without first encountering some dangers for her sake, and transforms the Prince to Harlequin, the lady to Columbine, the Ogre's porter to Clown, and his cook to Pantaloon, with a supernumerary attendant, or second-ary clown, 'yclept Lacqueypatch. The transformation effected, the lovers dance, not very gracefully, and their pursuers jostle each other about, not very amusingly, until in mercy to them and to the audience, the Genius of the Harp again appears: "And makes the lovers happy".

We have rarely sat out two such uncomfortable hours as this pantomime occupied. The tricks are scanty in the extreme, and their paucity is not compensated by their drollery. That which excited the greatest amusement, and which had the most pointed application, was the transformation of a parcel, labelled "Vendor of the dead languages," into a shop well-stocked with tongues, bearing the inscription, "Dealer in the unknown tongues." This, together with a trio between one of those vocal organs, the Clown and the Pantaloon, created much laughter. The greater part of the scenery is common place. We would except from this general observation "Thumb Palace", which is designed in a light and tasteful style; and the Ogre's Castle by sunrise — both the production of Grieve. The Cosmorans, representing a series of scenes on the Thames, from Waterloo-bridge to the New London-bridge, with the Royal procession as it appeared on the 1st of August, is, with the exception of the last scene, which possesses considerable brilliancy, a dull picture. The subject is hackneyed, and it has not been here created so as to impart a scintilla of novelty to it.

ON THIS DAY

December 27 1831

The pantomime was as popular in the 19th century as it is today, although Hop o' my Thumb, *playing also a few yards away at Drury Lane Theatre, seems to have fallen out of favour.*

THE TIMES TODAY TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 1994

NEWS

Police storm hijacked plane

■ French anti-terrorist police stormed the hijacked Air France airbus at Marseilles airport, killing the four terrorists who seized the jet in Algiers on Christmas Eve and rescuing all 170 people aboard alive.

The four terrorists of the Algerian Islamic Armed Group died in a textbook assault as night fell on the airport, 14 hours after the aircraft had landed from Algiers .....Page 1

Algerian war comes to France

■ The new Algerian war burst on to French soil, forcing the government to reflect on the policy that has turned Paris into the "Great Satan" of a formidable Islamic force. "Everyone knew this was bound to happen," said Jean-Francois Deniau, a former foreign minister, deploring the way France has assumed the villain's role ..... Page 9

Graduate tax

The Labour Party is considering proposals for a graduate tax to help to pay for the escalating costs of higher education. Graduates would have to pay between £6,000 and £8,000 during their working lives..... Page 1

Osborne dies

The playwright John Osborne, author of *Look Back in Anger* and the original Angry Young Man, died of heart failure .... Pages 1, 2

Mercury anger

A Labour MP has called for compensation for thousands of Mercury One-2-One customers who failed to get through on Christmas Day under the network's free calls promotion ..... Page 1

Perfect skiing

Skiers took to the slopes in Scotland to celebrate Boxing Day after overnight snowfalls brought perfect conditions..... Page 2

Shopping spree

Electrical, furniture and DIY stores cut short the holidays and opened their doors again yesterday, undercutting their pre-Christmas bargains .....Page 3

Police search

Tough powers to restrict the movement of violent offenders released from jail were demanded by Labour as police searched for an "dangerous" man wanted in connection with the murder of his former wife .....Page 3

Price of learning

Oxford University has put a £1 million price tag on its professorships as it tries to maintain the momentum of its fund raising campaign ..... Page 4

Christmas memories

Harold Payne had lost seven stone after suffering three years of regular beatings at the hands of his Japanese captors. *The Times* pays its last visit to Christmas 1944.....Page 5

Chechenia talks

With troops bogged down in Chechenia and making no visible progress, Russia's National Security Council headed by President Yeltsin announced a new attempt to open talks .....Page 7

PC celebrations

The season of celebration is far from over in politically correct America. Just as Hanukkah was followed by Christmas, so Christmas gave way to the seven-day festival of Kwanzaa.....Page 7

Burma welcomes Li

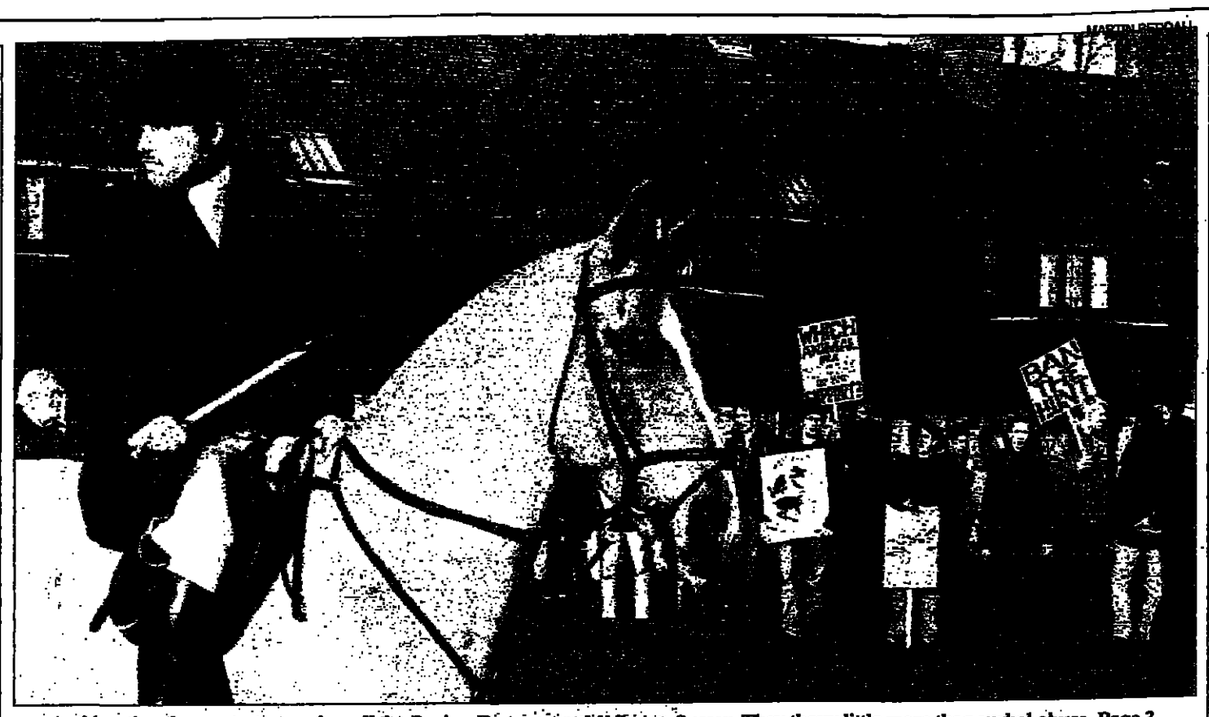
Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, arrived to an enthusiastic welcome in Rangoon on a three-day visit .....Page 8

Pilot still held

To the Clinton Administration's dismay, North Korea let Christmas come and go without releasing the American military pilot whose helicopter was shot down on December 17.....Page 8

China opens sperm bank — for yaks

■ China is opening a yak sperm bank in Tibet. At a cost of more than £128,000 and after six years of debate, the bank is due to open next year and will be able to inseminate artificially up to 100,000 animals. Of the 14 million yaks in the world, almost 13 million are in Tibet, where they are used for transport and for their meat, milk, and fur ..... Page 8



Anti-hunting demonstrators seeing off the Boxing Day meet at Midhurst, Sussex. They threw little more than verbal abuse. Page 3

BUSINESS

Bright forecast: The City expects the British economy to enjoy another solid year of progress in 1995, with output rising by a further 3.2 per cent and inflation staying just below 3 per cent. But it thinks that consumer spending will remain weak .....Page 32

Written off: Japan's big city banks saw their profits cut on average by 40 per cent in the six months to September as they finally wrote off more of the bad debts accumulated from a long-dead speculative boom .....Page 32

Avoiding the sack: Fears of mass new year redundancies in City securities houses seem to have been exaggerated. Despite dull markets, the sackings are more likely to be a trickle than a flood .....Page 32

SPORT

Football: Mark Hughes, seemingly poised to leave Manchester United, gave a timely reminder of his prowess with a goal that set up a thrilling win for his team .....Page 18

Cricket: The second Test begins to follow an ominously familiar course in Melbourne as England fail to make the most of their chances against Australia. Page 17

Rugby league: Va'aiga Tuigamala snatched victory for Wigan in spectacular fashion, charging through three tackles to secure a try that strengthened his team's title hopes .....Page 24

Racing: Barton Bank, the favourite in the King George VI Chase at Kempton, foundered at the final fence to let in the French hope, Algan .....Page 23

ARTS

The day I met: When Alfred Hitchcock summoned John Russell Taylor to dine with him, the *Times* film critic feared the worst. He got a world exclusive .....Page 26

Children's theatre: *Grimm Tales* at the Young Vic; *Angelo* at the Little Angel; and *Mr Rabbit meets Brer Santa* on a barge in Little Venice .....Page 26

Losing their touch: After 25 years in the business of making music, the longest-lasting trio in rock are finally running out of steam. David Sinclair sees ZZ Top .....Page 26

Dance at Christmas: If it's Christmas it must be *The Nutcracker*. This year Londoners get two major productions of the perennial favourite, along with *Cinderella* at Covent Garden.....Page 27

FEATURES

Glad to be sad: How can melancholy music can make us both sad and happy? Professor Anthony Clare explains .....Page 10

Award-winner: "If you've got a big nose like me, you just literally jam it in so that there's nowhere the whisky can go but up your nose." Richard Paterson, master blender of Scotch whiskies, talks to Joanna Pitman ..... Page 11

Bright sparks: The former students of a number of highly academic girls' schools have forged a powerful network..... Page 11

LAW

Inn tense: "1994 has generally been a year of stress in the courts — for lawyers, judges and litigants alike." David Pannick, QC, reviews the legal year.....Page 28

THE PAPERS

It would be good to meet this new year with hope for the future, and there is room for such hope, but the shape of the post-Cold War world is a work in progress still. How it will turn out will have a good deal to do with choices we make in the United States — *The Washington Times*

Government ethics laws allow the President and the Vice-President to accept gifts, primarily because unsolicited presents from baseball caps to hand-knit mittens, are always being sent to the White House — *Washington Post*

TV & RADIO

Preview: The difficulties of the Child Support Agency are nothing when compared with those of family courts in Jamaica, where 86 per cent of children are born outside marriage. *Baby Fathers* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond watches Dennis Potter's last film, *Midnight Movie*, and finds the writer coming close to self-caricature.....Page 31

COMMENT

Higher thinking

The Labour Party's decision to consider new forms of funding for higher education strengthens its reputation as a party which can make worthwhile contributions to political debate .....Page 13

Demon delight

Today is perhaps the only day of the year when a proposal for Prohibition might find any ready response .....Page 13

A patriot for us

John Osborne was that rare thing, a persistent rebel. Behind his cynicism was the belief that intelligent objection was worthwhile. Page 13

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

We have John Osborne's works, which will endure, but the fire in the bush has burnt-out, and we are the poorer for it. He blazed across our sky like the comet he was, and once declared that he would push me under a train .....Page 12

MAGNUS LINKLATER

A branch of the Mackenzie clan, said the Seer, would face ruin when a cow climbed the steps of a particular castle tower and gave birth to a calf in the topmost chamber. That unlikely event duly took place in 1851 .....Page 12

CHRISTOPHER DOBSON

The storming of the hijacked Air France Airbus became inevitable once the fanatical terrorists of the GIA, the Armed Islamic Group, had started to kill their hostages .....Page 12

OBITUARIES

John Osborne, playwright and author; **Basil Herbertson**, pathologist and university administrator; **Stuart Roosa**, astronaut ... Page 15

LETTERS

MI5 and agents of influence; the Tate and unseen paintings; car parking .....Page 13



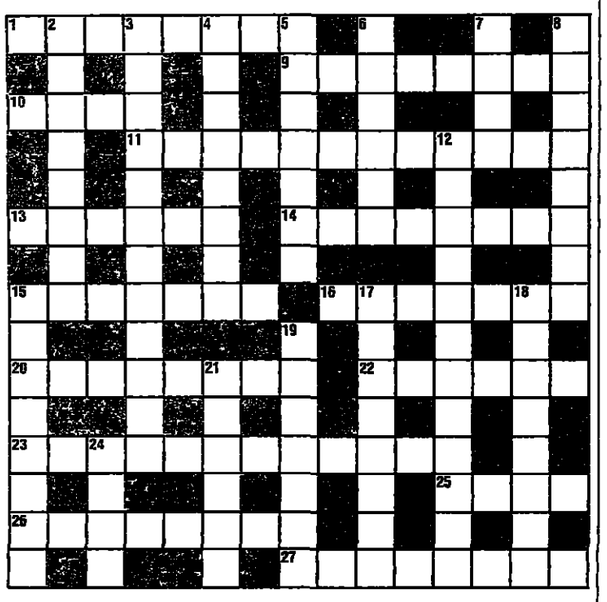
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ SALE FEVER
Iain R. Webb's guide to filling your wardrobe with cut-price classics of fashion

■ LAST FAREWELL
The day I met Leonard Bernstein: Richard Morrison on the great conductor

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,736



ACROSS

1 Sensation gets a woman's books rejected — up to now (8)
9 Revised tenure of a certain number (8)
10 To express pleasure is simpler out east (4)
11 Confused type on James Hogg's course? (9,3)
13 One is so prickly, being on the rocks! (6)
14 Propose to write comment about tropical starling (8)
15 Quarters in gloomy environment, available for viewing (7)
16 Former pupil likes new monument (7)
20 Sue is slow to capture a single game (8)
22 A society opening about that time in the city (6)
23 Strange car going to European extremists' assembly (12)
25 Move quickly to tuck in garment (4)
26 New request to have animal beheaded outside state (8)
27 Heartless ass captivated by girl's plainesss (8)

DOWN

2 Flood engulfing sister in a single day (8)
3 Arabs may be involved in such shrewd bargaining (5-7)
4 Backtracking revealed by woman priest without hesitation (8)
5 Cavalier temporarily unattracted by writing (7)
6 The minimum a body needs to function properly (6)
7 Go round end of house and have a look (4)
8 Predictable joint reaction? (4-4)
12 Without assistance, like convicted thieves of old (6-6)
15 Synthetic material for, say, absurd road marker (8)
17 Blissful to excel, even though in charge (8)
18 Taking an ancient language is an awful risk in a way (8)
19 Container vessel in port, on the south side (7)
21 Opposed to Bible language (6)
24 Mock title abandoned by his writers (4)

The Times Crossword Championship 1995, *revised provisional dates*: Qualifiers, Jan 19: Eliminator, Feb 23. Finals: York, Mar 19: Glasgow April 9: Bristol, May 28: Birmingham, June 18: London A, July 22. B July 23: National final, Oct 1.

Times Two Crossword, page 32

Solution to Puzzle No 19,735

C	O	M	P	O	N	E	N	T	F	O	R	M	S	
O	■	O	■	P	■	V	■	E	■	O	■	E	■	I
N	A	I	V	E	T	E	■	S	C	R	U	P	L	E
T	■	R	■	N	■	T	■	M	■	R	■	V	■	■
T	R	E	N	E	■	S	T	E	V	E	D	O	R	E
N	■	T	■	O	■	R	■	R	■	B	■	■	■	■
E	X	A	C	T	I	N	G	■	H	A	I	R	■	■
N	■	D	A	■	G	■	D	■	C	■	T	■	E	■
T	O	O	T	■	■	M	I	N	A	R	E	T	S	■
■	■	R	■	E	■	S	■	R	■	■	■	O	■	■
O	R	A	N	G	E	T	I	P	■	E	L	G	I	N
S	■	T	■	R	■	O	■	L	■	U	■	A	■	■
C	H	I	M	E	R	A	■	S	T	E	P	S	O	N
A	■	O	■	S	■	I	■	E	■	S	■	T	■	C
R	E	N	T	S	■	T	U	R	N	S	T	O	N	E

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms.	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs.	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, and Exmouth, Devon, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Stornoway, Western Isles, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, 0.43in, highest sunshine: Anglesey, Gwynedd, 0.7hs.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** wintry showers in north-east Scotland, but bright and dry elsewhere before cloud and rain spread from southwest. Snow on hills.

Northern Ireland will start bright, with rain spreading from southwest.

Southern England and South Wales will be wet for a time. Elsewhere, it will be bright and dry in the morning before cloud and rain spread to all parts in the afternoon.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** rain, becoming patchy, then persistent rain spreading from southwest. Wind strong locally gale, southwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N England:** wet at first, then bright; further rain later. Strong southwest wind, decreasing. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** clear intervals, rain spreading from southwest, heavy at times. Winds light and variable, southerly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands:** clear with sunny intervals; cloud and rain, preceded by snow on hills, spreading from west. Wind light and variable, becoming light southerly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** clear intervals, then rain, heavy at times. Winds light and variable, becoming moderate southerly. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** showers, some heavy, then sunny intervals. Wind moderate northwest, becoming light and variable. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** tomorrow will be cloudy with rain or drizzle, Thursday bright with showers, squally in the west, and prolonged in northern Scotland.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.02	7	45	r	Liverpool	-	0.24	11	52	r
Anglesey	0.7	0.07	11	52	r	London	-	0.07	9	48	r
Aspatria	-	0.27	9	48	r	Lowestoft	0.3	0.04	7	45	r
Avemore	-	0.16	6	43	sh	Manchester	-	0.04	10	50	r
Belfast	-	0.06	7	45	sh	Margate	.X	0.04	8	46	r
Birmingham	-	0.12	10	50	sh	Minehead	-	0.13	11	52	sh
Bognor R	-	0.07	9	48	r	Morecambe	X				
Bournem'th	-	0.12	10	50	r	Newcastle	-	0.06	10	50	r
Bristol	0.1	0.06	11	52	c	Newquay	X				
Buxton	-	0.14	8	46	r	Norwich	-	0.01	7	45	c
Cardiff	-	0.13	11	52	r	Nottingham	-	0.05	9	48	r
Clacton	-	0.01	7	45	r	Oxford	-	0.07	9	48	r
Colwyn Bay	0.1	0.07	12	54	r	Penzance	X				
Cromer	0.2	-	7	45	c	Plymouth	-	0.06	11	52	r
Doncaster	0.1	-	10	50	c	Poole	-	0.07	10	50	r
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	-	0.11	11	52	sh
Eastbourne	-	0.21	9	46	r	Ross-o-wye	-	0.15	11	52	d
Edinburgh	-	0.10	8	46	r	Salcombe	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.24	7	35	r	Sandown	-	0.15	11	52	r
Exmouth	0.2	0.02	12	54	r	Saunton Snd	-	0.24	11	52	r
Falmouth	X	0.03	11	52	d	Scarboro'	-	0.10	8	46	sh
Fishguard	0.6	0.25	11	52	r	Scilly Isles	0.3	0.37	10	50	r
Folkestone	-	0.03	8	46	r	Shanklin	-	0.22	10	50	r
Glasgow	-	0.23	8	46	r	Shrewsbury	0.3	0.13	11	52	sh
Guernsey	-	0.02	9	48	c	Skegness	X				
Hastings	-	0.14	8	46	r	Southend	X				
Hayling I	-	0.05	10	50	r	Southport	-	0.24	10	50	r
Herne Bay	X					Southsea	-	0.08	11	52	r
Hove	X					Stornoway	0.7	0.43	5	41	h
Hunstanton	-	0.08	8	46	r	Swanage	-	0.18	11	52	r
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	0.2	0.04	12	54	d
Isle of Man	-	0.15	10	50	sh	Tenby	-	0.33	12	54	r
Jersey	-	0.04	6	43	d	Tiree	0.6	0.18	7	45	sh
Kinloss	-	0.09	8	46	r	Torquay	-	0.09	11	52	d
Leeds	0.1	0.06	11	52	r	Ventnor	-	0.09	10	50	r
Lerwick	-	0.10	8	46	sh	West-s-mare	X				
Leuchars	0.2	-	8	46	r	Weymouth	-	0.06	12	54	r
Littlehmptn	X										

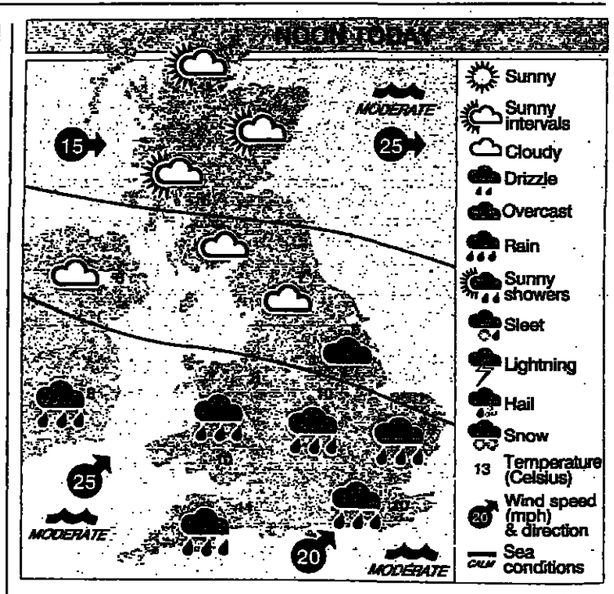
These are Sunday's figures

ABROAD

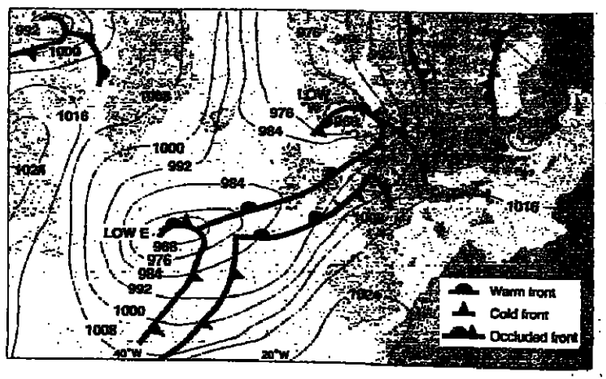
Ajaccio	9	48	f	C'phagn	0	32	sn	Madrid	1	34	s
Akrotin	17	63	s	Corfu	12	54	f	Majorca	13	55	f
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dublin	6	43	r	Malaga	12	54	s
Algiers	15	59	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	f	Malta	15	59	s
Amst'dm	2	36	fg	Faro	13	55	s	Melb'rne	23	73	s
Athens	14	57	r	Florence	5	41	s	Mexico C	17	63	s
Bahrain	17	63	s	Frankfurt	0	32	sn	Miami	19	66	f
Bangkok	31	88	s	Funchal	18	64	f	Milan	3	37	f
Barbados	-	-	-	Geneva	-1	30	c	Montreal	3	37	s
Barcelona	5	41	s	Gibraltar	13	55	s	Moscow	-4	25	sn
Beirut	18	64	c	Helsinki	1	34	c	Munich	-1	30	c
Belgrade	0	32	sn	Hong K	20	68	f	Nairobi	25	77	t
Berlin	1	34	sn	Innsbruck	-6	21	f	Naples	11	52	s
Bermuda	21	70	c	Istanbul	12	54	f	N Delhi	24	75	s
Biarritz	11	52	c	Jeddah	31	88	s	N York	12	54	s
Borde'x	9	48	f	Jo'burg	24	75	s	Nice	10	50	f
Brussels	1	34	c	Karachi	22	72	s	Oslo	4	39	f
Budapst	0	32	sn	L Palmas	20	68	f	Paris	2	36	r
B Aires	32	90	s	Le Touet	7	45	f	Peking	4	39	s
Cairo	20	68	s	Lisbon	6	43	c	Perth	26	79	s
Cape Tn	26	79	s	Locarno	1	34	c	Prague	-2	28	c
Chicago	9	48	s	L Angels	14	57	s	Reykjavik	-6	21	s
Ch'church	16	61	c	Luxembg	-2	28	d	Rhodes	15	59	f
Cologne	0	32	c	Luxor	24	75	s	Rio de J	29	84	f
Riyadh	18	61	s								
Rome	11	52	s								
Salzburg	-2	28	c								
S F'isco	9	48	s								
Santiago	29	84	s								
S Paulo	27	81	c								
Seoul	7	45	c								
St'kholm	3	37	c								
Strasb'rg	2	36	f								
Sydney	19	66	c								
Tangier	12	54	s								
Tel Aviv	21	70	s								
Toronto	19	66	f								
Tokyo	6	43	r								
Toronto	5	41	s								
Tunis	13	55	s								
Valencia	10	50	s								
Vanc'ver	5	41	f								
Venice	6	43	s								
Vienna	0	32	c								
Warsaw	-5	23	c								
Wash'ton	11	52	c								
Wel'ngton	18	64	c								
Zurich	0	32	f								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon today: low E will drift east and deepen a little; low W will move east and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.41	6.2	8.47	6.2	Liverpool	5.35	7.9	8.01	8.2
Aberdeen	8.05	3.7	8.26	3.8	Lowestoft	3.18	2.4	4.36	2.1
Avonmouth	12.53	10.5	1.31	10.8	Margate	8.03	4.2	7.02	4.1
Belfast	5.21	3.0	5.49	3.3	Milford Haven	12.19	5.8	12.52	5.8
Cardiff	12.45	9.94	1.19	10.21	Newquay	11.47	5.9	-	-
Devonport	-	-	12.06	4.7	Oban	-	-	12.25	3.3
Dover	5.13	5.8	5.59	5.6	Penzance	11.26	4.7	-	-
Falmouth	11.38	4.5	-	-	Portland	12.29	1.8	12.36	1.6
Glasgow	7.13	4.1	7.12	4.5	Portsmouth	5.39	4.3	6.05	4.0
Harwich	5.41	3.5	6.38	3.5	Shoreham	5.24	5.3	5.58	5.1
Holyhead	4.51	4.7	5.14	4.9	Southampton	5.07	4.1	5.34	3.9
Hull	12.02	6.45	12.57	6.27	Swansea	12.24	7.7	12.58	7.9
Ilfracombe	-	-	12.59	7.72	Tees	10.30	4.4	10.53	4.8
King's Lynn	12.03	5.7	1.04	5.3	W'ton-on-Nze	5.47	3.6	6.35	3.5

Crown copyright reserved All tide times are GMT

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.06 am
Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon sets 12.15 pm
Moon rises 1.49 am

London 3.57 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 8.16 am
Edinburgh 3.44 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.55 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.26 pm to 8.21 am

New Moon January 1

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من ألاصل



SPORT 17-25

Barton Bank throws away King George VI



ARTS 26, 27

The day Hitchcock sent a limo for a Times man



LAW 28

Lovely for lawyers: the year of litigation

FAIR WIND FOR RECOVERY
Business 30,32

THE TIMES

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 1994

Stewart suffers broken finger as Australia's bowlers fight back in second Test

Warne wrests control away from England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

THEY will have shaken their heads at the injustice of it all last night, bemoaning the fateful fingers that umpires raise and batsmen break. And they will have had a point. The overriding fact remains, however, that it was because England's cricketers did not make the best of their opportunities that the second Test match had begun to follow an ominously familiar course.

England played, yesterday, like a team desperate to win rather than a team that believes it likely. Their bowlers were frantic yet unfocused and their batsmen paid too much heed to the exhortations of Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, that wickets must be sold dearly.

Consequently, Shane Warne was allowed to reinforce his mental hold, now so firm that even his stray deliveries are minutely examined for signs of pedigree, and the three questionable umpiring decisions that raised English hackles could not entirely pardon the disappointing failure to capitalise on a position of great promise.

None the less, the second day of this Christmas Test was as enthralling as the first, the stakes high, the cricket stern and grudging. A turn-off, no doubt, for those of the 51,620 crowd raised on the instant version. The nuances of this game have been subtler, the pace far slower, but it is already a gripping Test.

England took the first day, Australia the second. Last night, with England 131 behind, four men out and another, Alec Stewart, technically unfit to continue batting, Keith Fletcher, the team manager, bravely beamed that it was "an even game". But Steve Waugh, whose unbeaten 94 may prove to have been decisive, voiced a different view.

"This wicket isn't real good for batting," he said. "You are never really in, because the pace and bounce is inconsistent. Today was the best for batting and it will get worse from here on in. Anything more than 200 will be hard to chase in the fourth innings."

To have a serious chance of the victory that would square this series, England required a first-innings lead of at least 50. The prospects of that receded sharply as they lost three important wickets in the last 70 minutes. But the erosion of their command had begun much earlier, first when they bowled without skill or sense at the tailenders and then when Stewart's unfortunate winter took another sour turn.

Waugh had only the tail for support when play resumed under clear blue skies and although Devon Malcolm continually dragged the ball down the leg side with a 7-2 off-side field in place, the admirable Darren Gough demonstrated precisely how to bowl at the semi-skilled — straight and full.

Tim May, stepping across his stumps, was unarguably leg-before and, three balls later, Craig McDermott was classically yorked. At 242 for nine England were content but Damien Fleming, the No. 11, now showed an unsuspected ability to handle a bat while Malcolm showed his ingrained ability to put the ball where tailend batsmen will be least inconvenienced.

He did his job eventually, Fleming nudging a third slip catch of the innings to Graeme Hick, but by then the last wicket had added 37. Waugh was left on 94, which was less than he deserved. Four times already, in Test cricket, he had been out in the nineties. Here, his chanceless innings spanned 265 minutes and included a blow on the grille of his helmet from Malcolm.

England, with Stewart retained as Michael Atherton's partner, negotiated six overs before lunch but the first ball thereafter cut deep into their confidence. McDermott, probing the vagaries of this pitch as only Gough had done for England, rattled Stewart on the right glove — indeed, the same right index finger that was broken, by Craig White, in the first week of the tour.

Retiring reluctantly, Stewart was X-rayed in hospital, where an uncannily similar break was confirmed. The vital nature of this game means that he could be patched up to bat again but he will not play another match for three weeks and England's selectors were last night discussing who should be the third emergency replacement on this ill-starred tour and whether he should be primarily a batsman or wicketkeeper.

Hick arrived to play as he has so often on this trip — assured, assertive and apparently bound to make a hundred. That he again did not do so was, this time, a matter for sympathy rather than censure. He had scored 23, the best of several commanding strokes a violent hook for four against McDermott, when the same bowler bellowed an appeal for a catch behind and the umpire, Steve Randell, gave Hick out. If the ball actually made contact with anything other than the thigh pad, endless television replays failed to indicate what.

This was perhaps the decision that set the mood for the rest of the day, for neither Atherton nor Graham Thorpe left the crease without staring meaningfully at the umpire, in both instances Steve Bucknor, although their cases for compassion were not so convincing.

Atherton, so intent on laying the essential foundation that he had laboured 200 minutes for 44, was leg-before — on the front foot but against a leg break that straightened and kept low. Thorpe, also pushing forward to Warne, was caught at silly point, having passed 50 for the ninth time in his 22 Test innings.

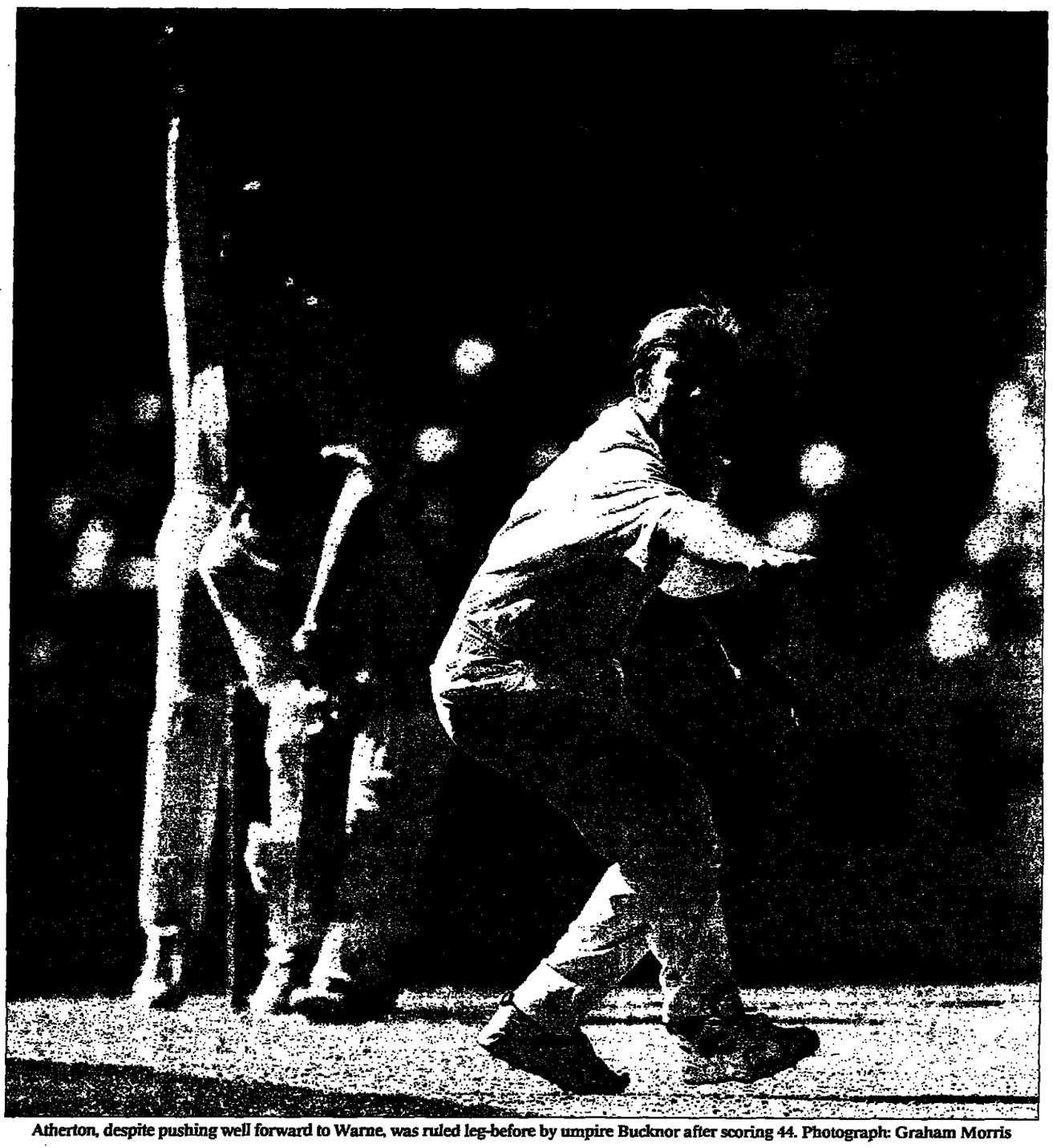
When Mike Gatting swept misguidedly, and Steve Waugh judged a swirling catch well at short fine-leg, Warne had taken three for eight in 40 balls. Graham Gooch remained, stoical in defence but sufficiently unbowed to hit the only four conceded by Warne in 20 overs.

Already, it has been a hectic game for Warne — he had a housewarming party on Christmas Eve and sacked and replaced his manager. Bowling out England must seem boringly routine.

Vice-captain ready to bat

ALEC STEWART, the England vice-captain, whose right index finger was broken for the second time on tour yesterday, is prepared to bat again in the second Test if required (Alan Lee writes). Stewart was hit on the hand by a ball from Craig McDermott during the first innings and an X-ray confirmed the fracture, which will keep him out of action for three weeks.

"If it's for the good of the team I'll go out there," Stewart said. "The problem would be if I got hit on the finger again." Stewart being their second wicketkeeper, England are almost certain to send for another replacement. Jack Russell is official standby. Fraser and Ilott have already joined the tour.



Atherton, despite pushing well forward to Warne, was ruled leg-before by umpire Bucknor after scoring 44. Photograph: Graham Morris

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater run out (DeFreitas/Gatting) 3 (26min, 19 balls)
*M A Taylor lbw b DeFreitas ..... 9 (73min, 41 balls, 1 four)
D C Boon c Hick b Tufnell 41 ..... (148min, 100 balls, 4 fours)
M E Waugh c Thorpe b DeFreitas 71 (219min, 155 balls, 3 fours)
M G Bevan c Atherton b Gough ..... 9 (28min, 23 balls)
S R Waugh not out ..... 94 (266min, 191 balls, 5 fours)
†I A Healy c Rhodes b Tufnell ..... 17 (59min, 42 balls, 1 four)
S K Warne c Hick b Gough ..... 6 (27min, 25 balls)
T B A May lbw b Gough ..... 9 (51min, 31 balls)
C J McDermott b Gough ..... 0 (2min, 3 balls)
D W Fleming c Hick b Malcolm ... 16 (33min, 19 balls, 2 fours)
Extras (lb 7, nb 3) 10
Total (107.3 overs, 471min) 279

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (Taylor 3), 2-39 (Boon 22), 3-91 (M E Waugh 32), 4-100 (M E Waugh 38), 5-171 (S R Waugh 36), 6-208 (S R Waugh 55), 7-220 (S R Waugh 61), 8-242 (S R Waugh 73), 9-242 (S R Waugh 73).

BOWLING: Malcolm 28.3-4-78-1 (nb 2; 6-3-14-0, 7-1-18-0, 3-0-8-0, 3-0-10-0, 7-0-18-0, 2.3-0-10-1); DeFreitas 23-4-66-2 (nb 1; 9-2-16-1, 4-0-13-0, 2-0-13-0, 4-1-11-1, 4-1-13-0); Gough 26-9-60-4 (5-3-15-0, 7-3-8-1, 6-2-14-0, 4-0-7-1, 4-1-16-2); Tufnell 28-7-59-2 (nb 1; 4-1-5-0, 11-4-31-1; 13-2-23-1); Hick 2-0-9-0 (one spell).

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton lbw b Warne ..... 44 (200min, 156 balls, 4 fours)
A J Stewart retired hurt ..... 1 (27min, 14 balls)
G A Hick c Healy b McDermott ..... 23 (44min, 34 balls, 3 fours)
G P Thorpe c M E Waugh b Warne 51 (150min, 117 balls, 5 fours)
G A Gooch not out ..... 15 (66min, 51 balls, 1 four)
M W Gatting c S R Waugh b Warne 9 (23min, 24 balls)
D Gough not out ..... 1 (19min, 17 balls)
Extras (lb 2, nb 2) 4
Total (4 wkts, 68 overs, 257min) ... 148

†S J Rhodes, P A J DeFreitas, P C R Tufnell and D E Malcolm to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 0-10 (Stewart retired; Atherton 8), 1-40 (Atherton 13), 2-119 (Thorpe 47), 3-124 (Gooch 1), 4-140 (Gooch 8).

BOWLING: McDermott 16-4-43-1 (nb 3; 10-4-24-1, 6-0-19-0); Fleming 11-5-30-0 (6-4-9-0, 5-1-21-0); M E Waugh 3-1-11-0 (nb 1; one spell); Warne 20-8-34-3 (5-1-11-0, 3-0-7-0, 12-7-16-3); May 18-5-28-0 (nb 1; 8-3-12-0, 10-2-16-0).

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and S G Randell (Australia).
TV replay umpire: W P Sheahan.
Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand).
PREVIOUS MATCH: First Test (Brisbane): Australia won by 184 runs.
MATCHES TO COME: Third Test: Sydney (January 1 to 5). Fourth Test: Adelaide (January 26 to 30). Fifth Test: Perth (February 3 to 7).

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Referee's card trick steals Le Tissier thunder

Southampton 2
Wimbledon 3

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

MATTHEW LE TISSIER is not used to having his thunder stolen, especially when he has added yet another magnificent goal to his glittering collection. Yet, at The Dell yesterday, Graham Poll grabbed centre stage with a display of refereeing that would have had the good burghers of Fifa purring with satisfaction. Le Tissier's gem almost paled into insignificance.

Poll, 31, the youngest referee in the FA Carling Premiership, booked 11 players and dismissed one, Andy Thorn, the Wimbledon captain, in a blaze of yellow and red that set a match record for the Premiership this season. Ten members of the Mansfield Town team became the record number of players from a Football League club to be booked in one match — the FA Cup third-round tie away to Crystal Palace — in January 1963. However, if yesterday's match gave the impression of a malevolent post-Christmas scrap, it could not have been further from reality.

Southampton and Wimbledon were competitive, as usual, but the list of offenders grew more from Poll's rigid insistence on enforcing the directives of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, than any mass outbreak of individual warfare. Four or five yellow cards, and no red, would have sufficed.

Poll, from Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, is one of the strictest enforcers for Fifa and readily admits that taking the common-sense factor out of the game, which has incensed so many football folk this season, is not his problem. He is simply following orders, to the nth degree.

While he remains coldly unemotional about it, others cannot. Players became bemused while managers, like Alan Ball, of Southampton, and Joe Kinnear, of Wimbledon, talk of threats to their livelihood and of being prevented from earning a decent living.

Kinnear wanted to talk to Poll about the 58th-minute sending-off of Thorn, for his second caution, but he was not allowed into the referee's room. Ball, also bewildered by some of the goings on, did manage to get an audience.

"He [Poll] reckons he had a good game and was always in control," Ball claimed. "The answers I was given were the same I'd had for 40 years. I might as well not have gone in there. What's the point."

Poll declined to share his views with the media, sending only a copy of his match report for public consumption. It revealed that all the bookings bar one were for ungentlemanly conduct, which covers a multitude of sins. Thus, few were any wiser for Poll's liberal name-taking — apart from the Fifa overlords.

Shame, really. Although the match was littered with crass defending, some of it appropriately pantomime in its nature, the sum total of the parts was enjoyable and often engrossing. Five goals, three shots against the woodwork, a resilient showing from ten-man Wimbledon and a controversial penalty winner.

Segers, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, began it all by allowing Dodd's weak shot to squirm through his arms and legs in the tenth minute. Nine minutes later, Grobbelaar imitated Segers's incompetence by flapping at a cross and Holdsworth tucked in Ekoku's smart pass after the ball had run free.

Grobbelaar missed another centre, when Harford nodded Wimbledon ahead, then Le Tissier stepped up, in the 43rd minute, to carve another notch on his brilliant belt. Once, twice, he juggled the ball in front of him before crashing a fearsome half-volley, from 25 yards, for his sixteenth goal of the season.

As the yellow fever spread, the second half disintegrated into an increasingly tetchy stop-start affair, eventually decided when Ekoku lost possession, bumped into Heaney and fell over. Penalties have rarely been awarded for less but Holdsworth cleanly dispatched it. At least Vinny Jones avoided Poll's displeasure, unlike Hughes, Dowie, Magilton, Widdrington and Dodd, of Southampton, and Harford, Elkins, Perry, Thorn, Holdsworth and Ekoku, of Wimbledon. Jones, Wimbledon's newly-Welsh warrior, was absent with a stomach bug. Just as well.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): B Grobbelaar — J Kenna, R Hall, T Widdrington, K Monkou — J Dodd, J Magilton, D Hughes (sub: C Maskell, 79) N Heaney (sub: P McDonald, 75) — I Dowie, M Le Tissier.
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): H Segers — K Cunningham, A Thorn, C Perry, A Kimble — E Ekoku, W Barton, R Earle, G Elkins — D Holdsworth (sub: N Ardley, 84), M Harford.
Referee: G Poll.

Busy day for officials

REFEREES were busy in England and Scotland yesterday — and not just at Southampton where 11 players were booked and Andy Thorn, of Wimbledon, sent off. Nine players were sent off in Premiership and Endsleigh League matches, three were dismissed in the GM Vauxhall Conference while in Scotland, three Montrose players were among seven given red cards.

At Filbert Street there were eight yellow cards in Liverpool's 2-1 win over Leicester City, for whom Simon Grayson became the club's sixth player to be sent off this season. The third Premiership player to be dismissed yesterday, taking the season's total to 37, was Andy Townsend, of Aston Villa, who had just returned from a six-match suspension.

One hundred and thirty four players have been sent off in Endsleigh League matches this season. Of the 2,742 cautions issued in English league football, 2,065 have come in the Endsleigh.

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STARTS 27th DEC. 11am*

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	SALE PRICE DOWN TO
100% Cotton business shirts	~~£ 37.50~~	£ 25
	~~£ 35~~	£ 25
	or 3 shirts for	£ 69
100% Wool 3 button S/B suits		
Flint	~~£250~~	£175
Grey pinstripe	~~£250~~	£175
Willow	~~£250~~	£175
100% Wool check sports jacket	~~£150~~	£115
100% Cotton denim shirt	~~£ 45~~	£ 29
100% Lambs wool crew neck	~~£ 37.50~~	£ 25
Assorted casual trousers	~~£ 50~~	£ 35

*Fenchurch St, Broadgate & Canary Wharf sales start 28th Dec.

BLAZER

McClair's riposte jolts United into life

Chelsea 2
Manchester United 3

By Andrew Longmore

A PROPOSAL of marriage on the pitch at half-time, a birth announcement midway through the second half, two penalties, five goals. The whole of life flitted through the sunlight of Stamford Bridge yesterday as Manchester United gave an object lesson in doing things the hard way, forfeiting a two-goal lead only to snatch the winner moments after Chelsea had equalised.

"A bit of a cup-tie," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, termed it, recalling perhaps that United won the cup-tie between the teams, the final at Wembley, as it happens, but lost both league games to Chelsea last season. Three points, though, proved ample compensation for the fixture computer's cheek in making United travel so far south over Christmas. Given that United have won three of their four games in London this season and drawn the other, the computer was clearly on United's side after all.

There is a carefree air about United away from Old Trafford which has cost them dear in Europe, but could yet win them the Premier League for the third time in a row. Whether Ferguson's nerves can survive the ordeal remains to be seen. After a similar scoreline against Queens Park Rangers on their last visit, he had organised his side to keep things "tightish", leaving Kanchelskis on the bench and packing the middle of the field to counter Chelsea's midfield diamond, which was less sparkling, anyway, without Wise and Minto. That Hoddle started his second game of the season was some compensation.

Tightish it was for the first half as United pushed up at every opportunity but, with Cantona proving a handful for Spackman and Giggs beginning to show signs of the old confidence, they were comfortably the more incisive side on the break. Giggs should have scored from a Cantona flick after 20 minutes. Moments later, the Welshman's perfect cross from the left brought United a deserved lead, Hughes charging in to score his first goal since November.

Chelsea had plenty of possession and looked neat and tidy, as they tend to do, without ever threatening much for all the scurrying of Spencer and and the aggression of Myers at left back.

United were forced to reshuffle at half-time after a hamstring injury to Ince. Keane moved into midfield, proving a short-term blessing and a long-term liability. Within 17 seconds of the restart, Keane's thrusting run into the penalty area had been ended by a clumsy challenge from Myers. Cantona put United 2-0 ahead from the penalty and the game, seemingly, beyond Chelsea's reach.

But, instead of consolidating quietly as Liverpool in their heyday surely would have done, United hit the button marked "exhibition" and very nearly paid the price for their conceit. Without Ince, United's midfield began to look vulnerable, but it took a dubious penalty, converted by Spencer after Pallister had pushed Stein, to prompt a Chelsea recovery. From a leisurely waltz, United were forced into Chelsea's quickstep and, in the 77th minute, they fell over their own feet when Walsh allowed a long, curling, cross from Furlong to be headed out of his hands at full stretch by Newton, who had only been on the field for four minutes.

"If we had enjoyed a tight three-minute period then," Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, said, "I would have fancied us to win. But we gave away a silly goal." Straight from the restart, Keane burst through again, the ball ran loose. Cantona, his touch as delicate, his presence as forceful as ever, clipped it to McClair, who made no mistake with the left-foot shot.

Chelsea still had something to give. Stein forced a fingertip save from Walsh and Myers headed wide. But United, at last, realised the need for caution as Cantona was booked for time-wasting, one of six booked in the match. "We're happy with the afternoon," Ferguson said. Not half as happy, though, as the bride-to-be, who generously accepted the half-time offer, and the proud father of a newborn baby girl.

CHELSEA (4-3-1-2): D Kharine — S Clarke, E Johnsen, F Sinclair, A Myers — C Burley (sub: M Stein, 54min), N Spackman, G Hoddle (sub: E Newton, 73) — G Peacock — J Spencer, P Furlong

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): G Walsh — R Keane, G Pallister, S Bruce, D Irwin — N Butt (sub: A Kanchelskis, 76), B McClair, P Ince (sub: G Neville, 45), R Giggs — E Cantona, M Hughes

Referee: M Reed


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Cantona advances menacingly as Spackman, the Chelsea midfield player, closes in at Stamford Bridge yesterday

Everton's attacking venture fails

Everton 1
Sheffield Wednesday 4

By Alyson Rudd

AFTER seven consecutive clean sheets, Everton put humility to one side and tried to play some attractive football in place of the dour, disciplined performances orchestrated by Joe Royle, their manager. But while this match was more entertaining than most of their recent games, it proved that Royle is not yet able to loosen the leash.

In the early stages, Everton's efforts to play Sheffield Wednesday offside smacked of arrogance, but the visitors learnt their lesson and exploited this apparent defensive nonchalance. Both of Wednesday's goals in the first half left Everton flat-footed.

But it was Everton who took the lead. They started well, with a series of intelligent moves just failing to come off. In the tenth minute, a ball from Hinchcliffe eluded Ebbrell only as he raced into the area. Limpar, too, was at his creative best for a while, but his passes were marginally misjudged.

After 37 minutes, however, a crossfield ball from Limpar, intended for Hinchcliffe, fell to Burrows, wide on the left, who swung the ball in for Ferguson. Time stood still for a second: as Ferguson leapt to connect, he seemed to have "£4 million and worth every penny" emblazoned on his forehead. Pressman, in goal, stood no chance.

Two minutes later, Wednesday won a free kick on the right. Sheridan laid the ball off to Atherton, who fed Bright. Everton moved out at the wrong moment and Bright swept the ball easily past Southall for the equaliser.

The Everton offside trap was as bad two minutes later when a long clearance from deep in the Wednesday half found Whittingham on the edge of the centre circle. Southall rushed out of his area to narrow the angle, Whittingham, who was transferred from Aston Villa last week, was driven wide, but not wide enough to prevent him scoring on his debut.

Everton had clearly forgotten that a leaking defence needs dramatic plumbing. Three minutes after the interval, Bart-Williams easily went past Jackson on the left and had time to deliver a cross which Ingesson bundled in.

With his side trailing by two, it would have been futile if Royle had now attempted to tighten his defence, so he sent on Stuart to bolster the attack in place of Burrows. An already demoralised defence was now weaker still, and Wednesday began to play some neat football.

After an hour, a lovely move was wasted by Bright; then, Whittingham came close with a shot on the turn. Ten minutes from time, he was more accurate and scored his second goal of the game, from a cross by Bright on the left.

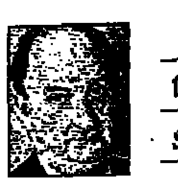
It was a poor result for Everton, an experiment that went wrong. But, according to Royle: "The wheels haven't come off." He will have to decide whether or not to continue with the experiment.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Jackson, D Watson, D Unsworth, D Burrows (sub: G Stuart (54min) — A Limpar, J Ebbrell, B Horne, A Hinchcliffe — D Ferguson, P Rideout.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, D Walker, A Pearce, I Nolan — F Ingesson, J Sheridan (sub: A Pond, 66), G Hyde, C Bart-Williams — M Bright, G Whittingham

Referee: T Holbrook.

Brazilians graft discipline on to traditional flamboyance



David Miller, who witnessed their great win in Porto Alegre, sees the way forward for Brazil

One of the most phenomenal free kicks ever struck — by their left back, Branco — was only a detail of Brazil's awesome display in defeating Yugoslavia 2-0 on Friday. We were witnessing the continuing development of perhaps the tactically most sophisticated Brazilian football team yet.

Yugoslav coaches accompanying the reintroductory tour after political suspension (they play Argentina in Buenos Aires today) are united in the opinion that the World Cup winners are more disciplined, and therefore more difficult to beat, than the legendary teams of either 1958 or 1970. Considering that Yugoslav coaches have variously been in charge of 47 different national teams worldwide, the opinion needs heeding.

The view is held by Raiko Mitic, the most celebrated of Yugoslavia's many midfield artists from the first two post-war World Cup finals and later coach of the 1968 European Championship finalists, who defeated England; by Zoran Filipovic, international centre forward, now manager of Benfica; and by the renowned Miljan Miljanic, senior Fifa coach and the first professional to be elected president of his national federation.

Experts in awe of the 'new' Brazil

Six weeks before the World Cup finals this summer, Miljanic supervised a conference of 300 coaches in the United States. Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil's coach now with Valencia, and his assistant, Mario Zagalo, who has succeeded him, told Miljanic that, while technically better players were omitted, they were confident that they had achieved tactical discipline; the sum of the whole, uncharacteristically for Brazilian teams over the previous five World Cups, was greater than the sum of the parts.

"For 20 years we've had great players without success," Parreira said to Miljanic, conscious of a campaign back home to oust him, "but there's no alternative to the way we are going. We know how to win — without playing the conventional Brazilian way."

Miljanic considers Brazil's defence, in spite of a shallow flat back four, has such a combination of pace and technique, together with the "pressing" of opponents by the midfield quartet, that Brazil should win the next World Cup, too.

"Jorginho, Aldair, Marcio Santos and Branco are brilliant defenders without being defensive," he says. "They win the ball without fouling and immediately attack. There were cleverer midfield players than Zinho, Dunga and Mazinho — such as Raí — but not players who would be so disciplined. Against us Brazil played more the 'old' way, but that was to celebrate as champions."

What a celebration. With the introduction of Marques in place of Mazinho — equally disciplined and exhibiting astonishing maturity and skill for a first appearance — the team grew in stature. The teenager, Ronaldo, and mercurial Viola were barely less threatening than the absent Romario and Bebeto.

There had been a revelation beforehand: a curtain-raiser match by ten-year-olds, intent on playing with the ball, not on "winning" tactics, volley-passing with the outside of the foot, playing a spontaneous two-touch game. On the way to the hotel, I saw a mother teaching her four-year-old to trap a bouncing ball with his chest. The youth of Brazil learns to play, and leaves tactics to adults.

Branco's free kick for the second goal was breathtaking; faster, Miljanic reckons, than the free kick with which Koeman, of Holland, scored against England, which travelled from boot to net, measured on videotape, in 0.68sec. *And* Branco's shot swerved viciously in the last six feet, leaving Pandurovic, the goalkeeper, dumbfounded.

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Carling Premiership

ARSENAL (0) 0 A VILLA (0) 0
34,452
Sent off: A Townsend (Aston Villa) 60

CHELSEA (0) 2 MAN UTD (1) 3
Spencer 58 (pen), Newton 77 — Hughes 21, Cantona 46 (pen), McClair 78
31,161

COVENTRY (0) 0 NOTTM F (0) 0
19,224

C PALACE (0) 0 QPR (0) 0
16,372

EVERTON (1) 1 SHEFF WED (2) 4
Ferguson 36 — Bright 39, Ingesson 48, Whittingham 43, 79
37,080

LEEDS (0) 0 NEWCASTLE (0) 0
39,337

LEICESTER (0) 1 LIVERPOOL (0) 2
Roberts 87 — Fowler 67 (pen), Rush 77
21,393
Sent off: S Grayson (Leicester) 82

NORWICH (0) 0 TOTTENHAM (1) 2
Barmby 11, Sheringham 90
21,814

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 2 WIMBLEDON (2) 3
Dodd 11, Le Tissier 43 — Holdsworth 20, (pen) 72, Harford 38
14,603
Sent off: A Thorn (Wimbledon) 58

WEST HAM (1) 1 IPSWICH (0) 1
Cottee 16 — Thomsen 70

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Man Utd	20	9	0	1	22	2	5	2	3	17	14	44
2 Blackburn	19	8	0	1	27	9	5	4	1	14	6	43
3 Newcastle	20	6	3	0	23	9	5	3	3	16	13	39
4 Liverpool	20	6	3	0	18	5	4	3	4	18	14	36
5 Nottm For	20	5	3	2	18	11	5	3	2	15	9	36
6 Leeds	20	6	3	1	16	9	3	2	5	13	16	32
7 Norwich	20	6	3	1	14	7	2	3	5	5	10	30
8 Tottenhm	20	4	2	4	16	17	4	3	3	16	17	29
9 Chelsea	20	4	2	4	17	10	4	2	4	11	16	28
10 Man City	19	5	3	1	24	11	3	1	6	6	20	28
11 Arsenal	20	3	4	3	12	10	3	3	4	11	12	25
12 Coventry	20	4	4	3	10	11	2	3	4	10	18	25
13 Wimbldon	20	5	1	4	15	16	2	3	5	9	19	25
14 Soton	20	4	3	4	14	14	2	3	4	15	20	24
15 Sheff Wed	20	3	4	3	9	10	3	2	5	14	19	24
16 QPR	20	5	1	4	18	16	1	4	5	11	19	23
17 C Palace	20	2	3	5	6	11	3	4	3	9	9	22
18 West Ham	20	5	2	3	10	7	1	2	7	6	15	22
19 Everton	20	3	5	3	14	14	1	2	6	2	14	19
20 A Villa	20	1	5	3	7	10	2	3	6	15	21	17
21 Leicester	20	3	4	4	15	16	0	1	8	5	19	14

Does not include late kick-off Manchester City v Blackburn Rovers

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley 1 Emley 1, Barrow 0 Morecambe 1; Bishop Auckland 2 Whitley Bay 2, Chorley 2 Horwich 3, Colwyn Bay 3 Droylsden 2, Gainsborough 2 Boston 0, Guiseley 2 Frickley 1, Hyde 1 Spennymoor 1; Marine 1 Knowsley 0, Matlock 2 Buxton 1, Witton 2 Winsford 0. First division: Alfreton Town 5 Congleton Town 1, Ashton Utd 0 Mossley 2, Atherton LR 3 Radcliffe Borough 1; Bamber Bridge 2 Gt Harwood Town 2, Blyth Spartans 3 Goole Town 1; Curzon Ashton 1 Caernarfon Town 1, Farsley Celtic 1 Harrogate Town 2, Fleetwood 1 Warrington Town 1, Gretna 3 Workington 0; Lancaster City 0 Netherfield 1, Worksop Town 4 Eastwood Town 0.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton 1 Leek 1; Cambridge City 2 Rushden and Diamonds 3; Chelmsford 1 Sudbury 0, Corby 3 Hednesford 1, Gloucester 1 Cheltenham 2, Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Sittingbourne 1 Solihull 0 Gresley 0, Trowbridge 1 Dorchester 1, VS Rugby 1 Atherstone 1, Worcester 3 Halesowen 1. Postponed: Hastings v Crawley. Midland division: Armitage 0 Ilkeston 3, Bilston 4 Tamworth 2, Dudley Town 0 Stourbridge 2; Forest Green 0 Evesham 0, Grantham 0 King's Lynn 5, Leicester 1 Hinckley Town 2; Nuneaton 2 Bedworth 2; RC Warwick 0 Newport AFC 2, Redditch 2 Bridgnorth 2, Rothwell 2 Buckingham Town 2, Sutton Coldfield Tn 1 Moor Green 2. Southern division: Clevedon 3 Weston-super-Mare 0, Fisher 93 2 Margate 2 Tonbridge AFC 2 Ashford 2, Waterlooville 0 Havant 0, Wealdstone 1 Burnham 1 Witney 1 Yate 1.

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

BARNSLEY (2) 4 GRIMSBY (1) 1
Payton 2, 45, 58, Liddell 79 — Woods 8
8,669

BURNLEY (1) A PORT VALE (2) A
McMinn 6 — Foyle 25, Burke 26
13,775
Abandoned at half-time

CHARLTON (0) 3 SOUTHEND (1) 1
Whyte 50, Leaburn 83, 86 — Bressington 32 (pen)
9,525

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0 MILLWALL (0) 1
Mitchell 47
6,758

OLDHAM (1) 4 WOLVES (0) 1
Ritchie 3, 58, 68, McCarthy 81 — Dennison 59
11,962

READING (0) 0 LUTON (0) 0
11,623

SHEFF UTD (0) 1 MIDDLESBRO (0) 1
Hodges 68 — Hignett 73
20,693
Sent off: P Beesley (Sheff Utd) 40

STOKE (0) 0 SWINDON (0) 0
17,662

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 BOLTON (0) 1
Smith 49 — Paatelainen 51
19,758
Sent off: G Bennett (Sunderland) 66

TRANMERE (1) 3 DERBY (0) 1
Malkin 12, 81, Jones 86 — Johnson 74
11,581

WATFORD (0) 2 PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
Ramage 63, Shipperley 85
9,953

WEST BROM (0) 1 BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
Munro 81 (og)
21,071

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Middlsbro	23	8	1	2	21	8	5	4	3	15	12	44
2 Tranmere	23	9	2	1	29	13	2	4	5	9	14	39
3 Barnsley	23	8	3	1	20	8	3	2	6	8	16	38
4 Wolves	23	8	1	2	23	11	3	3	6	17	20	37
5 Bolton	23	7	3	1	21	8	3	4	5	16	20	37
6 Reading	23	5	5	2	14	8	5	2	4	14	14	37
7 Sheff Utd	23	7	3	2	20	9	2	4	5	14	15	34
8 Stoke	23	6	3	3	20	10	3	4	4	6	15	34
9 Grimsby	23	6	4	1	18	9	2	5	5	15	22	33
10 Watford	23	6	5	1	16	9	2	4	5	8	15	33
11 Oldham	23	7	3	2	22	12	2	2	7	10	18	32
12 Luton	23	2	3	6	14	18	6	4	2	17	12	31
13 Millwall	23	5	4	2	19	12	3	3	6	10	16	31
14 Derby	23	5	4	2	14	8	3	3	6	10	14	31
15 Southend	23	7	1	3	14	8	2	3	7	10	28	31
16 Charlton	22	5	3	4	19	15	2	5	3	16	18	29
17 Sunderlnd	23	2	7	3	11	11	4	4	3	14	10	29
18 WBA	23	7	2	2	13	8	0	4	8	7	22	27
19 Swindon	23	5	5	2	18	14	1	2	8	12	23	25
20 Port Vale	22	5	3	3	17	12	1	4	6	9	17	25
21 Burnley	21	2	5	3	12	14	3	4	4	9	14	24
22 Portsmth	23	2	4	5	11	17	3	4	5	11	18	23
23 Bristol C	23	3	3	5	9	15	2	1	9	8	18	19
24 Notts Co	23	3	4	5	13	16	1	2	8	8	17	18

Second division

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 CAMBRIDGE (0) 1
Otto 20 — Otto (og) 82
20,098
Sent off: B Manuel (Cambridge Utd) 69

BRENTFORD (3) 3 L ORIENT (0) 0
Mundee 24, Ratcliffe 29, Forster 38
6,125

BRISTOL R (1) 2 BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1
Miller 36, Stewart 69 — Pennock 78
6,913
Sent off: J Vincent (Bournemouth) 57

CREWE (0) 2 CHESTER (1) 1
Adebola 55, Lennon 82 — Page 34 (pen)
5,428

HULL (0) 1 HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0
Peacock 82
10,220

PETERBORO (1) 1 OXFORD UTD (2) 4
Charlery 14 — Ford 13, Rush 40, 84, Murphy 89
5,203
Sent off: T Spearing (Peterboro) 33

ROTHERHAM (3) 3 BRADFORD (0) 1
Roscoe 2, Goater (pen) 7, Davison 22 — Taylor 89
5,400

SHREWSBURY (0) 0 CARDIFF (0) 1
Stant (pen) 78
4,933

STOCKPORT (1) 1 WREXHAM (0) 1
Todd 36 — Bennett 66 (pen)
5,636

SWANSEA (3) 3 PLYMOUTH (0) 0
Hodge 4, Hayes 28, 43
4,859

WYCOMBE (0) 0 BRIGHTON (0) 0
7,085
Sent off: P Smith (Brighton) 60

YORK (2) 4 BLACKPOOL (0) 0
Barnes 27, 38, 74, Naylor 48
4,542

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Oxford	21	8	2	0	18	7	6	2	3	23	15	46
2 Birmnghm	21	6	4	1	22	7	6	3	1	16	6	43
3 Wycombe	21	7	3	1	17	8	5	2	3	15	16	41
4 Huddrsfld	21	7	2	1	20	10	4	4	3	21	18	39
5 Hull	21	8	0	3	22	9	4	3	3	14	16	39
6 Crewe	21	7	1	3	23	18	4	2	4	17	22	36
7 Bristol R	21	6	5	0	26	12	3	4	3	9	7	36
8 Brentford	21	7	0	4	22	9	4	2	4	15	11	35
9 Wrexham	21	6	2	2	19	10	3	4	4	16	18	33
10 Stockport	21	6	1	4	17	13	4	2	4	15	15	33
11 Blackpool	21	7	1	2	18	13	3	2	6	14	19	33
12 Swansea	21	5	4	2	12	6	3	4	3	16	16	32
13 Bradford	21	4	2	4	13	14	5	2	4	17	18	31
14 York	21	6	2	3	20	12	2	3	5	8	12	29
15 Peterboro	21	2	5	4	13	20	5	2	3	13	14	28
16 Rotherhm	21	6	2	3	19	15	1	2	7	8	15	25
17 Brighton	21	3	5	2	9	7	2	3	6	11	19	23
18 Shrwsbry	21	4	3	4	18	15	2	1	7	8	13	22
19 Cardiff	21	2	3	5	11	13	3	2	6	14	20	20
20 Cambrdg	21	4	3	3	19	16	0	3	8	7	21	18
21 Plymouth	21	2	2	6	9	22	3	1	7	11	24	18
22 L Orient	21	4	3	3	11	9	0	1	10	5	22	16
23 Chester	21	3	2	5	11	17	0	2	9	4	18	13
24 Bournmth	21	2	1	7	10	21	0	2	9	6	24	9

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury 5 Chesham 1, Bromley 0 Dulwich 2; Carshalton 2 Sutton United 1; Enfield 3 St Albans 1; Harrow 1 Yeading 1; Hayes 2 Marlow 0; Hitchin 1 Bishop's Stortford 1, Kingstonian 2 Walton and Hersham 5, Molesey 1 Hendon 1, Purfleet 0 Grays 3, Wokingham 2 Slough 0. First division: Barking 4 Billericay 0 Berkhamsted 1 Boreham Wood 3, Dorking 3 Whyteleafe 4 Staines 1 Chertsey 2, Uxbridge 1 Maidenhead 1; Wivenhoe 2 Heybridge Swifts 2. Second division: Chalfont St Peter 2 Barton 1 Witham 3 Saffron Walden Tn 0. Third division: Hertford 4 Harlow 2; Horsham 3 Lewes 2, Tring 0 Leighton 1

Third division

BURY (2) 3 WIGAN (2) 3
Lucketti 9, Carter 45, Mathews 51 — Lyons 40, 45, Leonard 56
3,616

CHESTRFLD (1) 2 DONCASTER (0) 0
Robinson 34, 51
4,226

COLCHESTER (0) 0 NORTHAMPTON (1) 1
Harmon 35 (pen)
5,064

DARLINGTON (1) 1 SCARBORO (0) 0
Slaven 43
2,958

EXETER (1) 1 TORQUAY (0) 2
Storer 33 — Moore 63, O'Riordan 87
5,538

GILLINGHAM (1) 4 FULHAM (0) 1
Reinelt 44, Micklewhite 63, Foster 78, 82 — Morgan 80
4,677

HARTLEPOOL (0) 1 CARLISLE (1) 5
Cain 73 (og) — Mountfield 6, Conway 58, Reeves 65, 72, Gallimore 79 (pen)
3,854

MANSFIELD (1) 7 HEREFORD (0) 1
Donaldson 23, 51, Baraclough 47, Hadley 48, Howarth 53, Ireland 66, Wilkinson 89 — Wilkins 60
2,887

PRESTON (3) 3 ROCHDALE (0) 0
Smart 10, Kidd 28, Conroy 41
10,491

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 LINCOLN (0) 0
Juryeff 59, Eyre 88
4,785

WALSALL (2) 4 BARNET (0) 0
Palmer 14, Wilson 32, Lightbourne 48, 64
5,392

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Carlisle	20	8	2	0	19	5	7	2	1	21	10	49
2 Bury	20	7	4	1	17	7	5	1	2	14	5	41
3 Walsall	20	7	1	2	24	11	3	6	1	13	10	37
4 Doncaster	20	6	2	1	18	6	4	4	3	13	10	36
5 Barnet	20	4	4	1	19	10	6	1	4	10	14	35
6 Colchestr	20	5	2	4	18	18	4	3	2	11	10	32
7 Chesterfld	20	5	4	2	10	5	4	1	4	15	17	32
8 Torquay	20	5	4	1	18	12	3	2	5	10	13	30
9 Preston	20	5	0	4	18	9	4	2	5	12	14	29
10 Mansfield	20	4	2	5	19	14	4	2	3	16	14	28
11 Scunthrp	20	4	2	4	16	12	4	2	4	13	14	28
12 Fulham	20	3	3	3	12	9	3	5	3	10	15	26
13 Rochdale	20	4	2	3	14	13	3	2	6	14	28	25
14 Darlington	20	4	2	5	14	15	3	2	4	9	10	25
15 Lincoln	20	4	4	2	15	11	2	1	7	9	15	23
16 Exeter	20	5	2	4	16	18	1	2	6	2	13	22
17 Hartlepool	20	5	1	5	12	15	1	3	5	4	12	22
18 Gillnghm	20	4	3	3	14	11	1	2	7	11	20	20
19 Wigan	20	2	2	5	14	15	3	2	6	12	18	19
20 Northptn	20	2	3	5	7	11	1	6	3	7	10	18
21 Hereford	20	2	2	5	6	12	2	2	7	17	30	16
22 Scarboro	20	1	3	5	9	13	2	1	8	9	23	13

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 1 Caersws 1, Alan Lido 2 Maesteg Park 2; Barry 2 Inter Cardiff 2; Connah's Quay 2 Holywell 2; Conwy 1 Bangor City 4, Llanelli 1 Ebbw Vale 3, Mold 0 Flint Town 2: Newtown 0 Llansantffraid 1. Porthmadog 2 Rhyl 2, Ton Pentre 3 Cwmbran 0

Vauxhall Conference

ALTRINCHAM (0) 1 NORTHWICH (2) 3
Terry 89 — O'Connor 33, 86, Duffy 40
1,647

GATESHEAD (1) 1 HALIFAX (2) 2
Boardman 9 (og) — Kiwomya 42, Worthington 44 (pen)
931

KETTERING (0) 0 STEVENAGE (1) 2
Lynch 7, Venables 87
2,532

KIDDERMNSTR (0) 0 BROMSGROVE (1) 1
Carter 21
4,347

MACCLESFIELD (0) 3 STALYBRIDGE (0) 0
Howarth 54, 90, Wood 88
2,010

MERTHYR (1) 2 BATH (0) 0
Webley 43, 51
540

SOUTHPORT (0) 5 RUNCORN (0) 0
Gamble 62, 76 (pen), Haw 72, Goulding 85, Blackhurst 87
1,612

TELFORD (0) 0 STAFFORD (0) 0
1,217

WELLING (0) 0 DOVER (1) 1
Carter 35
1,216

WOKING (1) 3 DAG and RED (4) 5
Walker 39, 83 (pen), Ellis 70 — Richardson 17, Wordsworth 34, 42, Cook 41, Bennett 54
2,406

YEOVIL (0) 0 FARNBOROUGH (1) 1
Harlow 35
1,938

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclsfld	23	9	3	1	24	9	6	2	2	19	10	50
2 Gateshd	26	7	3	4	18	9	5	3	4	17	21	42
3 Woking	23	6	5	2	29	18	6	0	4	12	12	41
4 Southport	23	8	2	2	33	12	4	2	5	8	15	40
5 Kiddrmstr	24	5	4	3	20	13	5	4	3	21	20	38
6 Altrnchm	22	5	1	6	20	16	6	3	1	26	12	37
7 Bromsgrv	23	5	4	2	22	17	5	1	6	15	18	35
8 Halifax	20	6	2	1	23	7	3	4	4	14	19	33
9 Kettering	23	6	3	3	18	12	3	3	5	13	14	33
10 Stalybrdg	24	7	1	3	17	13	3	4	7	16	28	32
11 Farnboro	23	4	2	4	10	14	5	2	6	13	20	31
12 Steveng	23	5	2	5	23	19	4	1	6	12	13	30
13 Bath	25	5	2	5	21	21	3	4	6	13	21	30
14 Northwich	21	2	5	3	18	15	4	5	2	22	17	28
15 Welling	23	5	2	5	20	20	3	2	6	14	23	28
16 Dover	21	3	6	1	13	8	3	3	5	10	13	27
17 Runcorn	24	5	4	2	18	14	2	2	9	13	32	27
18 Telford	21	6	5	0	17	6	0	3	7	10	21	26
19 Merthyr	22	6	1	5	21	17	1	3	6	10	21	25
20 Dag/Red	23	3	3	5	12	17	3	3	6	12	22	24
21 Yeovil	24	3	2	7	14	17	1	5	8	10	23	18
22 Stafford	23	2	1	7	16	20	2	4	7	14	32	17

Yeovil deducted 1 point

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena 1 Coleraine 1, Bangor 3 Ards 1, Crusaders 1 Cliftonville 0; Distillery 2 Newry 2, Glenavon 1 Portadown 0, Larne 1 Carrick 2, Linfield 1 Glentoran 1; Omagh 4 Ballyclare 2

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians 0 Derry City 0; Galway Utd 0 Shelbourne 1. Postponed: Cork City v Athlone Town.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Blackpool Rovers 1 Darwen 1 (abandoned after 50 minutes), Glossop North End 1 Maine Road 1, Nantwich 0 Kidsgrove 2; Penrith 3 Holker OB 0, Prescot 1 Chadderton 0, Rossendale 0 Clitheroe 3 (abandoned after 45 minutes): St Helens 2 Bootle 0; Skelmersdale 1 Burscough 4, Trafford 3 Salford 1. Postponed: Eastwood Hanley v Newcastle Town. League Challenge Cup: Second round: Bradford Park Avenue 4 Bacup Borough 1

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

ABERDEEN (0) 0 CELTIC (0) 0

DUNDEE UTD (0) 2 KILMARNCK (1) 2
Hannah 49, Winters 55 — Bollan (og) 29, Mitchell 70
8,468
Sent off: N Whitworth (Kilmarnock) 54

FALKIRK (0) 0 MOTHERWLL (0) 1
Shannon 53
7,838

HEARTS (0) 3 PARTICK (0) 0
Hagen 55, Robertson 80, Bett 88
8,920

RANGERS (2) 2 HIBERNIAN (0) 0
Hateley 15, Gough 18
44,892

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Rangers	18	7	1	1	16	4	5	2	2	17	9	39
2 Motherwll	18	4	4	1	17	12	4	4	1	15	11	32
3 Hibernian	18	4	5	0	19	9	1	6	2	4	7	26
4 Falkirk	18	3	3	3	11	13	2	5	2	14	14	23
5 Celtic	17	2	4	2	8	9	2	6	1	9	7	22
6 Hearts	17	5	2	2	14	6	1	1	6	8	19	21
7 Dundee U	17	3	4	2	13	12	2	1	5	8	16	20
8 Kilmarnck	18	3	3	3	9	8	1	4	4	9	16	19
9 Aberdeen	18	2	5	2	12	10	1	2	6	7	13	16
10 Partick	17	2	2	4	10	12	1	2	6	4	17	13

First division

AYR (1) 1 CLYDEBANK (0) 1
Gorgugs 36 — Currie 86
1,969

HAMILTON (0) 0 DUNDEE (1) 1
Hamilton 26
1,552

RAITH (2) 3 AIRDRIE (1) 2
Cameron 15, Dalziel 30, Sinclair 89 — Cooper 20, Boyle 83
4,338

ST JOHNSTN (1) 3 DUNFRLNE (2) 2
McMartin 40, Davenport 74, O'Neil 78 — den Bieman 6, 24
6,091

ST MIRREN (0) 1 STRANRAER (0) 0
Elliot 78
2,515
Sent off: J McCann (Stranraer) 45

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Dundee	18	6	3	0	18	8	5	1	3	13	12	37
2 Dunfermln	18	7	1	1	22	4	2	5	2	14	13	33
3 Airdrie	17	4	4	0	13	2	5	2	2	17	12	33
4 Raith	18	3	5	1	17	14	3	3	3	11	8	26
5 St Johnstn	18	5	3	1	17	7	1	5	3	10	15	26
6 Hamilton	17	4	2	3	13	14	1	3	4	4	12	20
7 Clydebnk	17	3	2	3	11	8	1	4	4	6	13	18
8 St Mirren	17	3	2	4	9	10	0	6	2	7	10	17
9 Ayr	18	2	5	2	12	14	0	2	7	2	19	13
10 Stranraer	18	2	4	3	7	8	0	0	9	5	25	10

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon 0 Bowers 1, Brentwood 2 Romford 2, Burnham Ramblers 1 Maldon 5; Gt Wakering 5 Southend Manor 0; Sawbridgeworth Tn 2 Stanstead 0.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Barnstaple 1 Bideford 1, Calne 0 Chippenham 2; Frome 2 Paulton 4; Liskeard 0 Saltash 2, Mangotsfield 1 Bristol Manor Farm 0, Tiverton 4 Elmore 2; Westbury 3 Odd Down 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple 1 Bideford 1; Calne 0 Chippenham 2, Frome 2 Paulton 4; Liskeard 0 Saltash 2; Mangotsfield 1 Bristol Manor Farm 0, Tiverton 4 Elmore 2, Westbury 3 Odd Down 0.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Canterbury 2 Deal 5; Dartford 1 Chatham 2; Furness 1 Beckenham 1, Whitstable 1 Ramsgate 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 2 Deal 5; Dartford 1 Chatham 2; Furness 1 Beckenham 1; Whitstable 1 Ramsgate 1.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham 0 Wroxham 2; Felixstowe 1 Woodbridge 1, Hadleigh 2 Stowmarket 2; Halstead 5 Haverhill 0, Harwich and Parkeston 6, Tiptree 2; Histon 1 Newmarket 2; Soham Town Rangers 2 Chatteris 2, Sudbury Wanderers 2 Cornard 2; Watton 0 Diss 4; Wisbech 1 March Town 1

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 1 Holbeach 2, Bourne 3 Stamford 0; Long Buckby 3 Desborough 1; Mirrlees Blackstone 2 Spalding Utd 1, Northampton Spencer 1 Cogenhoe 0; Potton 1 Eynesbury 2; S and L Corby 2 Raunds 3, Wellingborough Town 0 Newport Pagnell 0, Wootton 4 Kempston 0

SKOL MIDLAND FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Premier division: Bloxwich Town 3 Ansells 1; Coleshill Town 3 Chelmsley Town 0; Kings Heath 2 Shirley Town 3; Meir KA 1 Handrahan Timbers 3; Northfield Town 4 Highgate Utd 3; Olton Royale 3 Upton Town 2; Sherwood Celtic 1 Knowle 2, Studley BKL 1 Alvechurch Villa 3; Wellesbourne 2 West Midland Fire Service 1.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 2 Deal 5; Dartford 1 Chatham 2, Furness 1 Beckenham 1, Whitstable 1 Ramsgate 1.

Second division

CLYDE (0) 0 G MORTON (0) 0
900

DUMBARTON (2) 4 E FIFE (0) 0
Mooney 34, Ward 45, McGarvey 69, Meechan 75
1,000

QUEEN OF STH (0) 1 STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 2
McLaren 70 (pen) — Steel 5, 79
1,437

Third division

COWDENBEATH (1) 1 CALEY THIS (0) 1
Callaghan 11 — Andrew 71 (pen)
464
Sent off: C Winter (Cowdenbeath) 70

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 2 E STIRLING (2) 3
McGoldrick 53, 74 — Russell 34, Geraghty 42, 70
552

Postponed: Ross County v Forfar.

Tennent's Scottish cup

First round

ALBION (1) 2 MONTROSE (2) 5
McBride 6, Dolan 56 — MacRonald 11, 30, Milne 71, Kennedy 77 (pen), McGlashan 79
356
Sent off: M Garden (Montrose) 38, I MacDonald (Montrose) 61, D Grant Montrose 73

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
2	1½	2	2	1½	2	1½	1½	1½	3	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	3	2	3	1½	1½	1½	3	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	3	1½	2	1½	2½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	1½	2	2½	1½	1½	1½	3	1½	1½	1½

FORECAST: Telephone claims are required for twenty-two and twenty-three points. The dividend forecast is a possible jackpot. There were six jackpot draws, two score draws and nine no-score draws

هكذا من الأصل

Newcastle curb cavalier approach in bid to catch leaders


Keegan: good result

Leeds United 0
Newcastle United 0

BY PETER BALL

THERE were two possible explanations for yesterday's unseasonal offering at Elland Road. Either it was just one of those days, or Newcastle, the heedless cavaliers taking everyone by storm in early season, have turned roundhead in the attempt to get back on track.

First thoughts tended towards the former, with the suspicion that those days arrive all too often at Leeds, where the home team scurry around stopping the other side playing with a will, but show few signs of doing anything themselves. Yesterday they restricted Newcastle to one real threat, Lukic making a brilliant save, and contrived a couple of half-chances themselves.

But for a side which had won only once in eight games, and slipped out of the top two, Newcastle were surprisingly content with a 0-0 draw. "It was a good result for us," Kevin Keegan insisted. "We've got Manchester United to come to Newcastle and we've still got to play Blackburn. Don't write us off yet.

"People tend to look at draws as two points lost, but these one points add up at the end of the season. It keeps Leeds a distance from us, which was important, and we were a bit more mean today."

Howard Wilkinson thought so, too. "They were difficult to beat, and perhaps they set out to be difficult to beat. There was a definite change of emphasis to their usual approach," the Leeds manager said.

But if Newcastle for once defended with purpose, that did little to excuse Leeds, who increasingly appear to regard hard work as an end in itself rather than as a means to an end. Whelan and Masinga failed to make any impression on Albert and Howey, Newcastle's latest central defence coping with some ease.

Palmer's move back to centre-midfield should relieve McAllister from some of the negative duties, but does not seem to have done. On one occasion McAllister ran 40 yards to close down Srnicek. Full marks for commitment, but a waste of effort — Srnicek cleared and when the ball reached the Leeds midfield, the man most likely to do something with it was trotting back from an offside position.

But after a bright start, that summed up the game. Perhaps if Mr Worrall had given a penalty in the first minute, when Pemberton scythed down Kitson, things would have been different. At least Mr Worrall was consistent — he didn't give anything from the first minute to the 85th, when Strachan was brought down from behind by Howey on the edge of the box.

Pemberton, too, was consistent, ending the game swapping pushes and punches with Cole. He escaped without reprimand, as did Cole.

But perhaps Mr Worrall decided that Cole was suffering frustration enough. He has now gone six games without a goal for Newcastle, his worst spell since he arrived there, and while he was in Leeds, Malcolm Allison was returning to the attack with a critique of his contribution.

Cole can console himself with the thought that Allison, who lost a championship by buying Rodney Marsh, paid £1 million for Steve Daley and bought Barry Silkman not once but twice, does not have an unimpeachable record as a judge.

"At the moment he's trying to work out a new partnership with Paul Kitson. It hasn't lived up to my expectations yet, but things take time," Keegan said.

"I think they've got the ability to be a good pair, but at the moment they aren't sure where to run, they aren't sure what the other is thinking. They are working at it and will get the reward, but the hard work has to come first."

Cole might take greater encouragement from the news that Beardsley might be back for Saturday's game at Norwich.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2) J Lukic — G Kelly, J Pemberton, D Wetherall (sub: N Worthington, 87min), A Dorigo — D White, C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed — N Whelan, P Masinga (sub: G Strachan, 68min).
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P Srnicek — B Venison, S Howey, P Albert, J Beresford — R Fox, R Lee, P Bracewell, S Watson — A Cole, P Kitson.
Referee: J Worrall

MARC ASPLAND


Poole, the Leicester City goalkeeper, left, and McManaman watch anxiously as the Liverpool forward's effort drifts narrowly wide at Filbert Street yesterday

McManaman makes the running

Leicester City 1
Liverpool 2

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BOXING Day came laden with gifts for Liverpool. Their first FA Carling Premiership victory in six games, putting them back on the fringe of the championship race, was a cruel blow to Leicester City's attempts to survive in the lower reaches of the division.

The match turned on two penalties within four minutes, the first missed by Leicester, the second scored by Fowler. Then, at three minutes past one, Rush stole a goal on the end of a classic Liverpool counter-attack, returning to the centre circle at a time when his racehorse, Great Marquess, was romping home in the 1.05 at Hereford, the Turkey Novices' Hurdle.

Yet for most of the first hour, the attacks were less penetrative than the biting wind. There were eight yellow cards in the match, begun and ended by those for Grayson, for two late fouls, on McManaman in the fiftieth minute and then, eight minutes from time, on Bjornebye. It brought, inevitably, the sixth red card of Leicester's woeful season.

Yet that discoloured the truth of the afternoon. In only the second match since Mark McGhee took over Leicester's relegation fight, he had redirected the efforts of his players into passing and rhythm, the hallmarks of his Reading team. But he acknowledges that his inheritance is inadequate. He believes he will sign two desperately needed players this week, though not in time for Leicester's visit to Manchester United on Wednesday.

That is a pity for, in Mark Draper, Leicester possess a midfield player who proved yesterday that he can be a general who is a match for the best. There was one moment to cherish when he rode a tackle from McManaman, showed the ball to Barnes and imperiously dragged it back from the England player.

It was exquisite skill but there was not enough of it in a struggling side. Leicester have won only once in their last ten games and those recruits to release Draper from having to tackle back in a role which is foreign to him cannot come soon enough. Gradually the blue shirts of Leicester were put in retreat. McManaman, returning after knee ligament damage, injected vital pace for Liverpool and would have scored in the 56th minute but for a masterful save from Poole.

The penalties were about to change the afternoon. After 63 minutes Barnes, of all people, made a nuisance of himself in defence, his lunging tackle on Philpott bringing what even Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, conceded was a penalty. Up strode Thompson, but his right-foot shot was clawed to earth by James.

"He's developing into a fair goalkeeper," Evans concluded. Fair, for though James at times worries his defence with his flapping at aerial balls, he is a shot-stopper of renown, and his anticipation and reach for the penalty were brilliant. Decisive, too, for within three minutes the referee, Gerald Ashby, had confounded everybody by awarding a penalty at the other end. He gesticulated that he had seen an elbow, apparently used by Hill on Scales. Fowler, though still a teenager, is not as fallible as Thompson. He scored his eighteenth goal of the season with cheek and assurance, sending Poole the wrong way.

The cruelty of the class gap is not only shown by a penalty taker. For, after 77 minutes, Barnes and McManaman began a teasing, sweeping manoeuvre of passes and movement from deep in Liverpool territory. Ultimately, Barnes's through ball cut Leicester apart and Fowler then produced a touch to offer Rush the goal that he scored with a flick from five yards.

"One Brian Little!" a forlorn and desperate band of Leicester supporters chanted. How quickly they forget that it was Little who deserted their team. Yet there was a remnant of Little's way, because McGhee called on the aerial power of Roberts and, from an Agnew free kick three minutes from time, Roberts rose, virtually unimpeded, to head in the consolation goal. Even then it was not finished, for James had to make a fantastic reflex save from Blake, not a yard away.

LEICESTER CITY (4-5-1): K Poole — S Grayson, J Willis, C Hill, M Whitlow — F Carr (sub: I Roberts, 71min), M Draper, M Blake, S Thompson (sub: S Agnew, 77), L Philpott — D Oldfield.
LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — J Scales, N Ruddock, P Babb — R Jones (sub: M Thomas, 86), S McManaman, J Redknapp, J Barnes, S-I Bjornebye — I Rush, R Fowler.
Referee: G Ashby.

Burley gets preview of fighting spirit at Ipswich

West Ham United..... 1
Ipswich Town..... 1

BY MEL WEBB

IF GEORGE Burley becomes Ipswich manager this week, he will inherit a team that on the evidence of their performance in a curate's egg of a match yesterday might be short on subtlety but will perish before it gives up its struggle to stay in the FA Carling Premiership.

Burley, 38, the former Ipswich full back and Scottish international, resigned as the player-manager of Colchester United on Christmas Eve and has been interviewed by the Ipswich board. Personal terms and a compensation deal with Colchester have still to be agreed, but the indications are that Burley will take over at Portman Road inside the next 48 hours.

Burley was at Upton Park to watch Ipswich slug out a deserved draw after being put through the wringer by West Ham in the second half of a match that lacked for the finer points of the game but partly made up for it with a sort of roistering enthusiasm. It was not the Ipswich of Bobby Robson or the West Ham of Ron Greenwood, but it made acceptable fare for all that.

The impending arrival of Burley meant that this was probably Paul Goddard's last match as the Suffolk club's caretaker-manager. Goddard has been in temporary charge since the resignation of John Lyall, his mentor at West Ham in the Eighties and Ipswich in the Nineties, on December 5, and if this is his final week in the job he will give it up with obvious reluctance.

"As far as I'm concerned I'm still caretaker manager, and I shall carry on until I hear otherwise," he said. "I would love to stay on because I am very happy at Ipswich, but I will work as hard as I can whatever post I am given.

"No matter what happens, I'm very proud of the way they played today. We may have lacked the killer touch once or twice, and we had to deal with some heavy pressure, but overall I'm pleased with our performance."

Goddard's pleasure was justified. Ipswich, severely challenged paddlewise up an increasingly muddy creek this season, showed a sense of purpose and, more important, a disinclination to yield that could yet serve them well in their efforts to lift themselves from the bottom of the table. If they do not make it — and this was their seventh game without a victory — it will not be for the want of effort.

They slaved away unstintingly after West Ham, revealing a freedom in attack that belied the dubious honour of being one of the most goal-shy sides in the country, took the lead in the sixteenth minute.

The lively Rush was the provider, Cottee the scorer as he ran on to a through-ball and waited for Forrest to make his move before slipping it past the Ipswich goalkeeper for his fourth goal in two games.

West Ham exerted a defensive yoke on Ipswich in the early stages of the second half, and their visitors' equaliser in the seventieth minute, a firm header by Thomsen from Kiwomya's cross, reduced West Ham to silent outrage.

It might, indeed, have been even worse had Mason taken the chance given him by a defensive hiatus between Dicks and Hughes five minutes later. A point apiece was just about right — but Ipswich will still be thinking about what might have been.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, A Martin, S Potts (sub: M Reid, 70min), J Dicks — M Rush, I Bishop, M Holmes, S Milton — A Cottee, J Boere.
IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): C Forrest — F Yallop, J Wark, P Whelan, A Vaughan — P Mason, S Milton, G Williams, S Sedgley (sub: S Slater, 46) — C Kiniwomya, C Thomsen
Referee: P Durkin

Arsenal let slip chance to break home jinx

Arsenal 0
Aston Villa 0

BY IVO TENNANT

EVEN when they are playing against ten men, Arsenal still cannot win at home. The youngest forward line George Graham has fielded found, like their elders before them, that Highbury can be as unforgiving a ground as anywhere else.

Graham had been prepared for the cat calls which, it should be noted, were aimed exclusively at the players, and so still has the self-belief and bearing to dismiss any talk of impending relegation.

Yet Arsenal have not won at Highbury in the FA Carling Premiership since October. They can neither pass the ball with accuracy nor shoot without speculation. True, there was no Wright, no Adams, and no Seaman. But against opponents who did not have Townsend for the last 30 minutes, they could come up with nothing that was not modest.

Aston Villa are themselves feeling their way, but then they have greater cause to do so. Brian Little is working out how to make the most of a talented but ageing group of players and, considering he finished the afternoon effectively deploying four centre backs, his thinking cannot be greatly advanced.

This match should have been won and lost after Townsend was sent off for a late foul on Dickov, having already been booked in the first half; it was a clumsy,


Townsend: clumsy foul

rather than malicious offence, and you sensed that one or two Arsenal players felt for him. This was his return to first-team football after a six-match suspension.

The referee, Kelvin Morton, had booked three players in the opening 12 minutes and consequently left himself with no scope for leniency. Villa regrouped by bringing on McGrath to play alongside Teale and Ehiogu and eventually moving Fashanu into the back four as well.

Campbell had two or three shots on the turn and a low drive by Dickov went past a post in the penultimate minute, but the reality was that Arsenal were completely bereft of intuition. It was not the occasion for Graham to compare Hughes, an 18-year-old midfield player whose debut this was, with Liam Brady. Hughes had no more idea how to create an opening than anybody else. The other individual making a debut, Taylor, showed the odd decent touch and will remember this match long after everybody else has forgotten it.

Among the sizeable crowd was the distinct figure of the Foreign Secretary. The time was when the Conservative Party's Cabinet would have been given a different lead by the Prime Minister and spent Boxing Day shooting pheasants. After this, Douglas Hurd should revert to type.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): V Bartram — L Dixon, S Bould, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour, S Hughes (sub: M Flatts, 76min), S Morrow, S Schwarz; K Campbell, P Dickov.
ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): N Spink — E Barrett, S Teale, U Ehiogu, S Staunton — R Houghton, K Richardson, A Townsend, I Taylor — D Saunders (sub: P McGrath, 69), J Fashanu
Referee: K Morton.

Southgate's efforts poorly rewarded

Crystal Palace 0
Queens Park Rangers .. 0

BY PAT GIBSON

IT WAS not just because this is the season of goodwill that Alan Smith, the Crystal Palace manager, remained remarkable sanguine for a man whose team has now gone six Premiership matches without scoring a goal.

"I was disappointed, of course, but I haven't really got any complaints about anything at all," he said. "We played well, and that's all I can ask of my players. If the goals don't go in ..."

His voice trailed off, which was not surprising considering that he had said it all before, leaving Ray Wilkins, who was going to play for Palace this season but finished up managing Rangers, to complete the summing up: "We were never in the game," he said. "Crystal Palace were by far the better side and we're grateful for a point."

So they should be. Palace, who have not scored in the league since they beat Ipswich on November 5, could have had four or five such was their supremacy over a Rangers side which never troubled Martyn in the Palace goal.

Southgate, an outstanding Palace captain, could have had a hat-trick. He hit the angle of post and bar and the inside of a post and saw another shot brilliantly tipped over by Dykstra.

Armstrong headed wide with the goal at his mercy from one of a stream of crosses from Salako, who had a marvellous game on the Palace left and has clearly put his injury problems behind him to recover the form which once took him into the England squad.

It was Salako who set the pattern of the game, cutting in to test Dykstra with both left foot and right. But it was Southgate who went closest to beating him with three superb efforts, any one of which deserved a goal.

In the tenth minute, he turned and shot from 25 yards but struck the angle with Dykstra beaten; in the sixteenth minute he struck a left-foot volley from the edge of the area only for the 6ft 4in Dutch goalkeeper to turn the ball acrobatically over the bar; and in the 61st minute his measured shot hit the inside of the right-hand post and rolled along the line before being scrambled away.

To be fair to Rangers, they stood up resolutely to the Palace onslaught although Wilkins was honest enough to admit: "It was a case of having too, wasn't it? We were under pressure from the first minute and it was a very tough game for us."

At least the Palace supporters kept their sense of humour amid all their frustration. Ten minutes from the end they were chanting for the substitute, Williams. No sooner had Smith given them what they wanted than the cry went up: "Get him off."

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N Martyn — J Humphrey, C Coleman, R Shaw, D Gordon — I Cox (sub: P Williams, 82mn), G Southgate, R Newman, J Salako — C Armstrong, A Preece.
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): S Dykstra — S Yates, D Maddix, A McDonald, C Wilson — A Impey, S Barker, S Hodge, T Sinclair (sub: M Meker, 67) — K Gallen, L Ferdinand.
Referee: B Hill.

Forest fail to spark the imagination

Coventry City 0
Nottingham Forest 0

BY OLIVER HOLT

FOUR fire engines, sirens blaring and blue lights flashing, bore down on Highfield Road an hour before the kick-off yesterday. There was a gas leak somewhere beneath the main stand and there were fears of an explosion. They evacuated the stadium and kept the supporters locked outside until the danger had been cleared.

The explosion never came. Not before the game and certainly not during it. There was scarcely a spark of entertainment from either side and Collymore, Forest's £6.5 million-rated forward, who left gaping holes in Manchester United's defence ten days ago, looked a lethargic imitation of his menacing best.

Pearce, still smarting from his enforced apology to Paul Ince, the United midfield player, after allegations of racial abuse, could have dragged the game into life in the 21st minute when Bohinen was tripped in the penalty area by Morgan as Coventry paid too much attention to Collymore and neglected his team-mates.

But, as the home supporters screamed their own abuse at Pearce, a former Coventry idol, he hammered the ball against the top of the crossbar with such force that it spiralled high onto the roof of the stand.

After that, there was little to cheer the spectators. The odd run from Ndlovu, fine defending from Borrows, some nice touches and passes by Bohinen and a fierce, dipping shot from Woan. Forest occasionally made Coventry look the pedestrian side they are but the half-chances that fell to Collymore disappeared in two instants of poor control.

As the game wore on and the spectators willed it to finish, Coventry emerged marginally the stronger. But, just when Ndlovu seemed about to tear Forest apart, he was denied by a fine saving tackle from Lyttle.

Forest remained content to soak up the pressure and to try and strike on the break. When Collymore is on form, that might be an acceptable policy. Yesterday, without Roy, it was a recipe for boredom, the cold turkey after the excesses of Christmas Day.

"The system that Forest play away forces you to take the game to them," Phil Neal, the Coventry manager, said. "They try to hit you on the break. There was a period in the second half when we got a little bit of momentum going but it was always likely to be a draw or a one-nil. It could have gone either way and we probably had the best chances over the 90 minutes. We need to think about shooting more."

Frank Clark, the Forest manager, was disappointed that his team had failed to secure their third win in four games and in the process had slipped below Liverpool to fifth place. "I see it as two points lost today," he said.

"We had enough of the ball but we were not sharp enough or imaginative enough in and around their penalty area to take advantage of that. Stuart Pearce does not miss too many penalties. It was crucial for us but he will be taking the next one; that is for sure."

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — B Borrows, S Pressley, D Busst (sub: A Pickering, 31min), S Morgan — J Darby, P Cook, P Ndlovu, C Jones — S Flynn, R Wegerle (sub: M Quinn, 76).
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Stone, S Gemmill (sub: P McGregor, 85), L Bohinen, I Woan, D Philips (sub: A I Haaland, 24) — S Collymore.
Referee: A Wilkie.

Tottenham surge spurred by Barmby

Norwich City 0
Tottenham Hotspur 2

BY A CORRESPONDENT

HAVING discovered a defensive solidity under Gerry Francis, Tottenham yesterday offered a reminder of their attacking prowess in securing their first away win during his tenure as manager. Victory was all the more notable in that it was secured at Carrow Road, where Norwich have not been generous hosts season.

"The players have given everything since I took over and to put together a six-match unbeaten run against some very difficult opposition is no mean achievement," Francis said. "As a team, we are defending very well and we are also attacking well." Evidence of the latter came in the form of goals from Nicky Barmby, in the eleventh minute, and Teddy Sheringham just before the end.

Yet the points came at a price. Howells, Anderton, Campbell and Barmby picked up injuries which make them doubtful for the match against Crystal Palace this evening. "It's just something I am going to have to accept," Francis added. "I didn't want us to play twice in two days but that was decided before I became manager and we've just got to get on with it."

There was an element of controversy about the opening goal, with the Norwich defence appealing in vain for offside as Anderton broke free down the right before crossing to Barmby, who scored from close range. Tottenham, however, might have taken the lead twice before and the goal was reward for their bright start.

Tottenham continued to look the better side for much of the game, but their intricate approach play was not matched by their finishing and Norwich, outclassed for long periods, almost made them pay in the final 15 minutes. Yet the Norfolk side's hopes of sustaining their unbeaten run at home, which had lasted 11 matches, were undone by lack of bite in front of goal. Tottenham made the game safe deep into injury time, when Sheringham's shot took a deflection off Ullathorne and looped over Gunn.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-2): B Gunn — M Bowen, R Ullathorne, J Polston, J Newsome — D Sutch, I Crook, J Goss, D Eadie — M Robins, A Ward.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-3-3): I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, S Campbell — G Popescu, D Howells, D Anderton — N Barmby, J Klinsmann, E Sheringham.
Referee: L Dilkes.

Hibernian's championship pretensions cruelly exposed at Ibrox

Rangers hint at more creative style

Rangers 2
Hibernian 0

BY KEVIN McCARRA

HIBERNIAN left Ibrox yesterday burdened not only with defeat but also with desolation. The Scottish champions lavish mastery of them must have given the visitors the brooding feeling that they are merely part of the Rangers' retinue in the premier division. The Edinburgh club had thought themselves challengers, but now find themselves 13 points behind the leaders after their second defeat of the season.

We have now entered the months in which Rangers traditionally expose a great many ambitions as delusions. With new year in the offing, they seem ever more capable of scripting the old triumphant story. The Hibernian manager rightly complained about the manner in which his defence conceded goals here, but Rangers might have scored on a clutch of other occasions.

Walter Smith, the Rangers' manager, surely has more than just another title on his mind. The club's disappointments in the European Cup have brough not just alterations and rejuvenation to the side, but also reflection on Rangers' whole style of play. Over the years, they, in common with most others in British football, have treated the 4-4-2 system as if it embodied some special rectitude.

All those fussy, complicated tactics could be left to devious foreigners. Unfortunately, the continentals have, of late, been getting the better of us. Rangers' defeat by AEK Athens in the Champions' League this season demonstrated a need to attack with more flexibility. The Scots had no equivalent to the Greeks' knack of springing men through a defence from midfield.

Rangers now appear to have set their sights on that fluidity. Their top scorer, Hateley, was back after injury, but the champions rarely pounded the ball for his head and absolutely refused to station a static partner beside him. Instead, Durie and Laudrup had deep-lying roles which invited them to indulge their taste for running with the ball.

IAN WALDIE



Gough, captain of Rangers, exudes determination as he outjumps two defenders to head his side's second goal in yesterday's 2-0 win

Hibernina were always fumbling to get a grip on Rangers since they could rarely locate the next source of danger. It was ironic, therefore, that the opening goal, which came after 16 should be lacking the guile which saturated most of the home side's performance. Scott, in goal for the injured Goram, kicked downfield for Hateley to play the ball to Huistra, collect the return and slot a shot past Leighton.

Hibernian, reduced to panic, conceded another two minutes later. Miller unnecessarily put the ball behind and although he prevented Boli from reaching Laudrup's corner, Hunter could not complete the clearance. The centre half's kick was sliced straight up in the air and Gough bustled in to head for goal. Leighton might still have saved, but was slow to dive and the ball slithered into the net.

After such a compendium of errors, Hibernian were understandably crestfallen. Laudrup was soon taking a Durie cross to shoot against the bar and, three minutes from the interval, Tweed's novel response to a deep cross from the Dane was to head the ball against his own post.

The visitors first shot on target came from Findlay, who had replaced the injured Miller, after 46 minutes and was promptly mishandled by Scott. His hitherto idle fingers may have been in need of defrosting.

Later, Hibernian could have been given a penalty when Boli handled, but the referee missed the incident. All the same, they can have few complaints about a result which served only to camouflage their inferiority. At least Hibernian supporters did see Wright, after operation and injury, play his first game of the season. The exercise for he and his team-mates, however, consisted of being given the run-around.

RANGERS (4-3-2-1): C Scott — A McLaren, B Boli, R Gough, D Robertson — C Miller, S McCall, P Huistra — B Laudrup, G Durie — M Hateley (sub: C Moore 74min)
HIBERNIAN (4-4-2): J Leighton — P McGinlay, G Hunter, S Tweed, W Miller (sub: W Findlay, 25) — G Evans, D Jackson, B Hamilton, M O'Neill — K Harper (sub: K McAllister, 70). K Wright.
Referee: E Martindale

Middlesbrough stay clear as dishonour is even in niggling feud

Sheffield United 1
Middlesbrough 1

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

SCRUFFY, scrapy and sometimes downright spiteful, this was a match to make you shudder. Dictated by wince-inducing challenges, woeful passing and a swirling wind, events at Bramall Lane were anything but wholesome.

Only the outcome was slightly satisfactory. A point each leaves Middlesbrough clear at the top of the first division of the Endsleigh Insurance League, and Sheffield United still in contention for the play-offs.

On paper, that point looked commendable for Dave Bassett's team, considering that they had Beesley dismissed five minutes before the interval. The central defender trudged off after committing a second bookable offence, stupidly raising his hand in an attempt to block Miller's clearance. The first came for a foul on Moore.

In his absence, Bassett, the manager at Bramall Lane, relocated Nilsen into central defence and Hartfield to left back. Nilsen, especially, adapted well. So well that Middlesbrough failed to muster much menace until deep into the second half.

Bryan Robson's excuses? Although the Middlesbrough player-manager strove through central midfield, he badly missed Pollock's combative presence beside him. Instead, Teesside's best young player was suspended and confined to the press box, from where he watched Sheffield take the lead after 68 minutes.

Bassett's side had threatened most from set pieces, and one led to the goal when Gage's long free kick was directed past Miller by Hodge's stooping header, courtesy of Gayle's decoy run. It represented a rare concentration failure in a visiting defence in which Pearson excelled. He was deployed in an unfamiliar formation, Robson opting to counter Sheffield's physical presence — they field eight players taller than 6ft — with three central defenders.

Even so, pushing his full back forward was a dangerous game against a United team that specialises in quality crosses. Fleming, particularly, must take considerable credit for curtailing that service.

The supply from Whitehouse, on the Sheffield left, was cut completely by an injury in the second half. Significantly, his withdrawal coincided with Middlesbrough's brightest spell.

Hodges, too, has a sophisticated left foot, which is more than can be said for some of his tackling. The midfield player was fortunate to stay on the field after a horrible challenge on Hendrie late in the first half. Then, the referee regarded his pulling of Moore's ears with perplexing leniancy.

By the time Hodges opened the scoring, Hendrie had long since limped off — his dead-leg a direct result of that foul. In truth, Hendrie had failed to make much of an impact in a rearranged attack that featured Moore out of position on the right.

Hignett substituted for Hendrie and scored the equaliser after 73 minutes. Cox's cross from the right was diverted by Gayle and fell to Hignett. From eight yards, he volleyed crisply.

Wilkinson had constantly come second in his aeriel duel with Gayle, and he proved equally anaemic when, after 88 minutes, a rare chance fell at his feet. With hundreds of disillusioned patrons heading for the exits, Wilkinson miscued from six yards.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — K Gage, B Gayle, P Beesley, R Nilsen — T Rogers, C Hartfield, G Hodges, D Whitehouse (sub: P Starbuck, 75min) — C Veart, A Scott.
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-4-3): A Miller — N Pearson, S Vickers, D Whyte — N Cox, G Kavanagh, B Robson, C Fleming — J Hendrie (sub: C Hignett, 49), P Wilkinson, A Moore
Referee: J Rushton.

Exeter's lack of pedigree exposed on derby day

Exeter City 1
Torquay United 2

BY STUART JONES

THERE is a practical and humane, albeit unseasonably cold-hearted, solution to the difficulties afflicting the likes of Exeter City.

Give up the struggle for survival, both on and off the pitch, in the nether regions of the Endsleigh Insurance League and turn the staff into semi-professionals. A third successive home defeat, further endangering their immediate future in the third division, acted as another psychological blow to a club which appears to be down if not out.

Exeter's opponents, let alone their West Country neighbours in front of their biggest crowd of the season, pose the least of their problems.

So impoverished that their squad has resorted to making records to raise vital funds, Exeter have angered some locals in a far from abundant catchment area.

Plans to relocate the ground, from the narrow backstreets near the cathedral to the marshlands by the estuary, have been strongly opposed by environmentalists.

Nobody would dispute that St James' Park requires extensive modernisation. A relic of the age before the Taylor Report, it resembles Plough Lane, the tin shack that was once Wimbledon's home.

The team, yet to be settled this season, needs a complete overhaul as well. But the manager, Terry Cooper, is virtually penniless. The talents at his disposal, on yesterday's evidence at least, are so limited that they would struggle to maintain a place in the Vauxhall Conference.

Although Storer ran through an inept offside trap to put Exeter ahead, their inadequacy was eventually exposed. Moore, a massive central defender with the stature of a heavyweight boxer, equalised with a header and O'Riordan, the most cultured player on view, claimed Torquay United's winner close to the end.

The late Sir Norman Chester, when asked to reform the league, wisely suggested that the lower two divisions should be regionalised and played on a semi-professional basis. Few would not benefit from the plan, initially put forward more than a quarter of a century ago and again more recently. Exeter, for one, would be advised to lend their wholehearted support should it be proposed once more. Their beleaguered goalkeeper can put the theory into practice himself, anyway. Barrett, an understudy, usually performs in the Great Mills League.

EXETER CITY (4-4-2): M Barrett — J Minett, M Came, J Richardson, R Robinson — S Storer, D Bailey, J Brown, C Anderson — M Gavin, T Morgan (sub: T Daniel).
TORQUAY UNITED (4-4-2): A Bayes — D O'Riordan, L Barrow, D Moore, C Curran — G Goodridge, T Kelly, C Okorie, R Hancox — D Stumbridge, I Hathaway.
Referee: S Dunn

Ritchie plunders Wolves' coffers

BY MEL WEBB

THE scavenging instincts of an old-time bounty hunter sent ailing Wolverhampton Wanderers to their sixth Endsleigh League first division defeat in eight games yesterday.

Andy Ritchie, 34, is a touch slower and a good deal less hirsute than in his salad days with Manchester United and Leeds United, but his touch around goal is undiminished, and by scoring his second hat-trick in three games and the seventh of his career he helped to increase the worries of Graham Taylor, the Wolves manager.

Ritchie struck in the third minute from the edge of the penalty area, and made it two 13 minutes after half-time with a classic far-post header from Brennan's cross.

Wolves briefly hauled themselves back into the game through Dennison, but further goals from Ritchie and McCarthy completed the rout to leave Wolves in fourth place, seven points behind Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough, the league leaders. Wolves, second in the table before the game, were overtaken by Tranmere and Barnsley, who both won.

Middlesbrough were held to a 1-1 by a Sheffield United side who were reduced to ten men five minutes before the break when Paul Beesley was sent off for blocking the goalkeeper with his hands, his second bookable offence. United took the lead in the second half with a Hodges header, but Hignett gave Middlesbrough a point less than five minutes later.

Reading dropped a point in an uninspiring goalless draw at home to Luton, after which Jimmy Quinn announced that he and Mick Gooding, who are sharing the caretaker management of the club following the departure of Mark McGhee to Leicester City, have applied for the job.

Oxford opened up a three-point gap at the top of the second division after a 4-1 win at Peterborough. David Rush making up for a missed penalty by scoring twice.

Ricky Otto made a dramatic start to his career with Birmingham City when he scored in the twentieth minute against Cambridge. But the cheers turned to boos when Otto, an £800,000 signing from Southend, put through his own goal eight minutes from time.

Wycombe stayed in third place despite a 0-0 home draw with Brighton, while Crewe Alexandra stepped up the chase with a 2-1 home win victory over Chester.

Carlisle strengthened their grip on the third division with a 5-1 win at Hartlepool. Reeves, their leading scorer, scoring twice. Bury, stayed in second place after drawing 3-3 with Wigan.



THE TIMES
Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz

Geography is the subject in the second day of *The Times* Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz, which welcomes the New Year with bigger prizes than ever before.

The classic Speyside malt whisky and Britain's best quality newspaper have prepared questions on six themes: history, art and literature, geography, sport, food and drink, and general knowledge.

Each day this week we are printing five questions. When you have the answers to all the 30 questions, send them in and you could win a sporting weekend for two, with salmon fishing and golf as well as a tour of the Aberlour Distillery.

Even if you fail to win one of the 102 top prizes, your study will not go unrewarded. Every entrant who completes the 30 questions by the closing date will receive a miniature bottle of Aberlour.

The prizes

The first two correct entries drawn at random after the closing date will each win a sporting weekend for two on Speyside, Scotland. The winners will fly to Aberdeen and spend two nights at Craigellachie Hotel. Salmon fishing and golf will be available and there will be a tour of the Aberlour Distillery.
The next 50 correct entries will receive prizes of 35cl bottles of Aberlour single malt, each with two Riedel malt whisky glasses.
A further 50 correct entries will each win a 70cl bottle of 10-year-old Aberlour Single Highland Malt.
Every entrant who completes the 30 questions by January 9, 1995, will receive a miniature bottle of Aberlour.

How To Enter

Every day this week *The Times* will publish five questions. When you have the answers to all 30 questions, send them on a piece of paper together with your name, address and daytime phone number to: *The Times*/Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz, 18-19 Whitefriars Street, London EC8B 2NG.

All entries must be received by midnight on January 9, 1995. Winners will be chosen from all correct entries received by this date. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

Day Two Questions

1) How many locks are there on the Caledonian Canal?
2) Which glen ends at the col appropriately named "Rest And Be Thankful"?
3) Which island, with peaks rising 2,659ft, bears the name of a spirit/drink?
4) Which village on the River Lossie gave its name to a Texas city in 1845?
5) Which island was the setting of the novel Whisky Galore?

Argentina's coach trying an innovative formation

David Miller looks forward to watching an intriguing clash of styles in Buenos Aires

Terry Venables ought to be making a date for observation in Riyadh in the new year, when Saudi Arabia hosts the second tournament of inter-continental champions. Daniel Passarella, captain of Argentina's winning World Cup side of 1978 and now the new national coach, will be continuing with his experimental 2-6-2 formation that has no centre forward.

Argentina, the South American champions, confront Yugoslavia here tonight with two attackers on the flanks, Ortega, of River Plate, and Rambert, of Independiente, with the centre of the pitch left invitingly free for runs from midfield. Dukic, the Yugoslav *libero*, who was voted the most consistent player in Spain last season, can expect to be busy.

Passarella, who was coach with River Plate until October, is fashioning a new young team, following a World Cup campaign by an ageing side in the United States that was clouded by Maradona's suspension. Given that Maradona has so much difficulty managing his private life, Buenos Aires is full of speculation on how he will handle his appointment as coach of Racing Club.

It is 28 years since Racing last won a trophy, controversially defeating Celtic in a World Club championship play-off in Montevideo, Uruguay. Since then, Racing have hired and fired 53 coaches to no avail.

By all accounts, Passarella is a disciplinarian. He has insisted on military-style haircuts for the national squad, so his youngsters tonight will look even more like schoolboys. They will not necessarily behave as such. The recent friendly with Romania, which they won by the only goal, was a rough, negative affair in which Romania had a man sent off.

What distinguishes the Argentine formation, besides the absence of a centre forward or any player from Europe, is an entire left side of five left-footed players.

Slobodan Santrac, Yugoslavia's coach, is under some pressure to achieve a satisfactory result tonight. He has been promoted by Miljan Miljanic, the national federation president, in recognition of work with the under-18 side, but the Yugoslav reporters here are critical that their re-instated team, following political suspension, is not being led by a coach of the status of Evic Osim, who is with Graz in Austria, or the elderly Vujadin Boskov, an equally famous former international and coach of Napoli.

The problem for Osim, who was in charge during the 1990 World Cup and with the team that qualified for the European championship of 1992, is that he is a Croatian of Czech/Polish parentage married to a devout Muslim. The Serbs would happily accept him, but he would be threatened by Croatians. Such are the political/religious complexities that stretch even into sport within the former Yugoslavia.

Santrac makes only one change for the side that lost in Brazil. Dorovic, the Red Star central defender replacing an out-of-form Dubajic, of Stuttgart. Jokanovic (Oviedo) and Mihailovic (Sampdoria) in midfield must both take fitness tests but it seems the new wave of outstanding, uncapped 20-year-olds, including Nad and Milosevic, the league's leading scorer, of Partizan, and Kovacevic and Petkovic, from Red Star, will have to bide their time on the bench.

Experience will be as critical tonight as last Friday, a highly competitive match notable for being played without a single serious foul. Possession determined that match: Brazil made some 500 passes compared to Yugoslavia's 300.

Komljenovic keeps his place as an attacking right back following a promising initiation against Brazil. Born in Germany, with Croatian father and Serbian mother, he plays for Eintracht, in Frankfurt. He had the option of three national teams, but had no hesitation in choosing Serbia-Montenegro, the republic that existed before the super-powers gratuitously redrew the borders after the First World War.

A side, ably led by Dragan Stojkovic, is self-evidently united and determined in re-establishing Yugoslavia's football credibility. Victory tonight would reinforce their claim for belated inclusion in the European championship qualifying competition.

ARGENTINA (probable: 2-6-2): C Bosso — R Ayala, N Fabbri — F Arutebarena, J Zanetti, H Perez, M Escudero, C Bassedas, M Espina — A Ortega, S Rambert
YUGOSLAVIA (probable, 1-3-4-2) G Pandurovic — M Dukic — S Komljenovic, G Dorovic, B Brnovic — S Jokanovic, V Jugovic, D Stojkovic, S Mihajlovic — D Savicevic, P Mijatovic

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday December 31 unless stated

FA PREMIERSHIP
Coupon No, fixture, forecast
1 Arsenal v QPR 1
2 Chelsea v Wimbledon 1
3 Coventry v Tottenham 2
4 C Palace v Blackburn X
5 Everton v Ipswich 1
6 Leeds v Liverpool 2
7 Leicester v Sheff Wed 1
8 Man City v Aston Villa 1
9 Norwich v Newcastle X
10 South'pton v Man Utd 2
11 West Ham v Not'm F 1

FIRST DIVISION
12 Barnsley v Wolves 2
13 Burnley v Southend X
14 Notts Co v Luton 2
15 Oldham v Swindon 1
16 Reading v Grimsby 1
17 Sheff Utd v Portsm'th 1
18 Stoke v Middlesbro 2
19 Sunderland v Derby 1
20 Tranmere v Bristol C 1
21 Watford v Port Vale 1
22 West Brom v Bolton 2
Not on coupons: Charlton v Millwall (Sunday)

SECOND DIVISION
23 Birm'ham v Blackpool X
24 Brentford v Oxford X
25 Bristol R v Chester 1
26 Crewe v Layton O 1
27 Hull v Brighton 1
28 Rotherham v Cardiff 2
29 Shrewsbury v Plym'th 1
30 Stockport v Bradford X
31 Swansea v Hudd'field X
32 Wyc'mbe v Bourn'm'th 1
33 York v Wrexham 2
Not on coupons: Peterboro' v Cambridge Utd

THIRD DIVISION
34 Bury v Torquay 1
35 Chest'field v Lincoln 2
36 Colchester v Hereford 1
37 Darl'gton v North'pton X
38 Exeter v Wigan 1
39 Gillingham v Carlisle 2
40 Hartlepool v Fulham 1
41 Mansfield v Barnet 2
42 Preston v Scarboro 1
43 Scunth'pe v Rochdale 1
44 Walsall v Doncaster X

DIADORA LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
45 Marlow v Harrow 2
46 St Albans v Hitchin 1
47 Slough v Bromley 1
48 Sutton v Wokingham 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER
49 Aberdeen v Hearts X
50 Celtic v Falkirk 1
51 Hibernian v Dundee U X
52 Motherwell v Rangers 2
53 Partick v Kilmarnock 1

SCOTTISH FIRST
54 Airdrie v Dunfermline 2
55 Ayr v Hamilton 2
56 Clydebank v Stranraer 1
57 Dundee v St Mirren 1
58 Raith v St Johnst'ne 1

SCOTTISH SECOND
Not on coupons: Berwick v Stirling, Brechin v Clyde; East Fife v Meadowbank, Morton v Queen of the South; Stenhousemuir v Dumbarton

SCOTTISH THIRD
Not on coupons: Albion v Ross; Alloa v Queen's Park; Caledonian v Montrose; East Stirling v Arbroath, Forfar v Cowdenbeath

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Norwich, Burnley, Birmingham, Brentford, Stockport, Swansea, Darlington, Walsall, Aberdeen, Hibernian
BEST DRAWS: Norwich, Burnley, Brentford, Darlington, Hibernian.
AWAYS: Tottenham, Manchester United, Luton, Wrexham, Lincoln
HOMES: Everton, Manchester City, Reading, Watford, Shrewsbury, Colchester, Hartlepool, Scunthorpe, St Albans, Slough, Sutton, Clydebank.
FIXED ODDS: Homes: Everton, Reading, Colchester, St Albans, Slough. Aways: Tottenham, Luton, Harrow. Draws: Burnley, Brentford, Darlington.

Vince Wright

هكذا من الأصل

Camborne gain upper hand in Cornishmen's traditional Boxing Day encounter

Chapman penalises Redruth's basic mistakes



David Hands visits a corner of England where the style of rugby reflects a rugged lifestyle

Sentimental folk that we are, especially at this time of year, there can be few who do not wish Cornish rugby well. There is a great warmth and affection for rugby within the Duchy which most of us witness only when the yellow and black hoards swarm out of the West to Twickenham for the final of the county championship.

This is not because Cornish rugby is the best; patently it is not. But anyone may recognise what rugby means to Cornwall. It is a corner of England which, like the southern strip of Wales, the south-west corner of France, the northern neck of Argentina, is full of men who ply, or plyed, a hard trade and their rugby reflected what they were. Miners, fishermen, farmers.

This is no place to come for fancy footwork, although Cornwall has contributed its share of such: Richard Sharp's name springs readily to mind or the luckless Alan Buzza from recent times. But there is an independence of character to be seen in the most unlikely places: this year, perhaps, it is the fact that a woman seeks to stand as Cornwall's representative on the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

According to the regulations only those qualified for selection by England, may represent a constituent body on the RFU committee. But those regulations were drawn up before the existence of an England women's team which, since they hold their version of the World Cup, anyone might be proud to represent.

Whether the Helstone secretary, Beverley Davis, is chosen as a test case by Cornwall will not be known until February, but in this day and age there is every reason for the RFU to clarify its regulations to ensure a woman can do so.

As it is, 1994 will not go down as a vintage year for the Cornish; ousted on their own Hellfire Corner by Durham in the county championship last season, Cornwall will not even make the semi-finals of the competition this season, having lost already to Middlesex and Berkshire.

The local economy remains depressed (14 per cent unemployment in the Redruth and Camborne area) and the leading club sides can make little headway against the rising tide of players and money and jobs up-country. Last season Redruth were relegated to the national fourth division and are struggling to remain there this season against a backdrop of limited enthusiasm in the schools, few obvious career prospects and the internecine rivalry which is part and parcel of Cornish club rugby.

It has, as its apogee, the annual Boxing Day clash between Redruth and their neighbours from two miles further west, Camborne. It says something for Redruth's fortunes that Camborne arrived at the Recreation Ground as favourites even though they occupy a division lower. Camborne won the 1993 fixture, though earlier this season the two clubs played out a 22-22 draw, and yesterday carried off the honours once more by 16-13, thanks to a last-minute penalty goal kicked by Darren Chapman.

Were a modern world to be reflected in Cornwall, the two clubs would sink their differences and join forces. As Peter Johnson, Redruth's recently appointed director of rugby said: "The playing resources of the county are stretched over too many clubs. The interclub rivalries, animosities, jealousies bred into generations of rugby players deters players from changing clubs to improve themselves."

Cornwall's centenary history makes the same point in a different way: "The real impetus [for the formation of a rugby club] was that Camborne should not lag for a moment longer than strictly necessary, behind Redruth." Thus in 1877, two years after their neighbours, Camborne's club was born and it is feasible that the two could change places at the end of this season though more likely that each will stay where they are in the present club hierarchy.

Both clubs possess players of talent. Richard Carroll enjoyed a notable game in Camborne's back row, his side dominating both the loose ball and the lineout. However, Redruth had Simon Blake who is among the top 20 point-scorers in the country. Thus they established a 13-3 lead playing with the blustery wind, only to squander it by basic errors.

There were neat tries at the start of each half: Andy Hawken worked Andy Knowles over for Redruth in the first half and Simon Moyle's classy pick-up and run set his illusive captain, David Weeks, free for Camborne. Though afterwards the kickers ruled and the crowd was incensed when the referee awarded the penalty — for dissent — which won Camborne the match. David May, the match official and himself a late replacement, used to play for Camborne, and they do not forget such things easily in Cornwall. Perhaps, for the good of the game in the Duchy, it is time they did.

SCORERS: Redruth: Try: Knowles. Conversion: Blake Penalty goals: Blake (2). Camborne: Try: Weeks. Conversion: Chapman. Penalty goals: Chapman (3).

REDRUTH: S Blake, A Knowles, K Thomas, S Willars, A Cowling, S Whitworth, C Whitworth, N Douch, M Phillips, R Tonkin, G Williams, S O'Sullivan, A Cock, J Wedlake, A Hawken. S Whitworth replaced by J Pengilly (40min).

CAMBORNE: D Chapman, P Wheeler, P Gadsdon, D Lewick, D Weeks, S Moyle, J Chappell; P Morris, S Richardson, S Oates, K Penrose, N Coldrick, T Adams, R Carroll, M Gray. Chappell replaced by A Chapman. (71)

Referee: D May (Cornwall).



Camborne run out in front of the home supporters at the Recreation Ground, Redruth, under the distant monument at Carn Brae. Photograph: Tim Cuff

Stirling caught on the rebound

Northampton 34
Stirling County 15

By John Hopkins

NORTHAMPTON won the pre-match ceremonies reeling out the red carpet for their Scottish visitors with some spirited playing by the Northampton pipe band. Then they won the match, a thoroughly Christmasy affair full of knockabout stuff including a try scored when the ball rebounded from behind the line.

After their thrashing in this fixture last year, Stirling County have improved beyond measure. Unbeaten in the Scottish League first division and thus favourites to win the title this season, they presented a threat even without their three internationals. Yet such is Northampton's strength in depth and such is the air of confidence instilled by the arrival of Ian McGeechan that a makeshift home team proved too heavy in the set pieces for the Scots.

Stirling County resembled Scottish rugby down the years. They could not match Northampton in weight or size and so the scrums and lineouts were difficult areas.

They conceded one penalty try after a scrum on their own line and only narrowly defended at scrums in similar positions on other occasions. In loose play, on the other hand, they were very lively. Martin McGrandles scored two tries, the first after the ball had passed through at least eight pairs of hands. Northampton led 17-8 at half-time and then turned to face a nasty squall. McGrandles's second try pulled Stirling to within three points and started a passage of play that was the heart of the game. For nearly 40 minutes, Stirling tried all they knew, using the wind well, but nobody could score.

The siege was lifted with an extraordinary piece of good fortune. McKenzie got the ball behind his line and looked as though he would put in a relieving kick. However, the ball hit the crossbar, rebounded back and MacNaughton dived on it for the softest of tries. Beal converted.

As if this was not bad enough, two minutes later Stirling were attacking when Packman intercepted in his own 22. He had not got the pace to reach the other end but, luckily for him, Beal was near at hand to take the ball and, just over halfway, Thorneycroft got it and raced in to score. Beal converted and Northampton had scored 14 points in four minutes at the end of the game that gave the scoreline an unfairly lopsided appearance.

SCORERS: Northampton: Tries: Seely, MacNaughton, Thorneycroft, penalty try. Conversion: Beal (4). Penalty goals: Beal (2). Stirling: Tries: McGrandles (2). Conversion: McKenzie. Penalty goal: McKenzie.

NORTHAMPTON: N Beal; F Packman, N Law, R MacNaughton, H Thorneycroft; A Hepher, B Taylor; M Hynes, P Roworth, M Lawle, S Fipple, J Phillips, G Webster, J Cassell, G Seely.

STIRLING COUNTY: S Williamson; G Turner, C Sangster, M McGrandles, R Miller; M McKenzie, M Robertson; J Gibson, G Rutherford, B Robertson, G Mackay, S Hamilton, M Norval, B Ireland, G Flockhart.

Referee: G Ashton Jones (East Midlands).

Neath show capacity for a scrap

Pontypool 8
Neath 19

By Gerald Davies

THIS victory for Neath moves them from fifth position to third, behind Cardiff and Pontypridd, in the Heineken League. They may be four points adrift of Pontypridd, but they have the capacity to cause a few embarrassments before the season's end. Cardiff visit them on Saturday, and they are rarely comfortable at The Gnoll.

This result should be of a different concern to Pontypool. With only three successes in the Heineken campaign this season, they are struggling, with Newport, at the foot of the division.

This was a fixture where they might have harboured some hopes of victory. As they look to their remaining matches, they will find little comfort. Difficulties on the field may be exacerbated by a division or two off it. Mark Ring, their stand-off half and captain, who is thought to have left the club, has returned. Not everyone agrees with such comings and goings, and such uncertainty can cause only inconsistency when they need cohesion and a wholehearted effort.

Relegation looms. It did so last year, too, but then there was, as they say, total commitment to a cause.

There was commitment by the players here, but with the clerk of the weather in dismal mood, the playing conditions were not conducive to anything other than an unrelenting battle at forward. If it was unpromising to begin with, the conditions deteriorated throughout.

The rain pelted down, water surfaced on the pitch. To make matters worse, the wind failed to make up its mind which way to blow; favouring one side one moment, the other the next. The bitter wind was such that Neath retired to the dressing room at half-time while colourful umbrellas on the open banks turned inside out. Pity the players, then.

Pontypool began well by scoring a try in the second minute. A crafty kick to the corner by Ring, a clean catch at the lineout by Mruk and Billen charged his way over for the score. But the home team failed to build on this.

Transgressions by them ensured a penalty count going against them by ten to four in the first half with McCarthy, home from his success with Cambridge University, landing two, which gave his side the advantage.

Ring's dropped goal, however, gave the visitors the lead by half-time, but it lasted only until the second minute of the second half, when McCarthy kicked his third penalty goal.

As the conditions grew bleaker and more difficult to master, Andrew Thomas charged over for a try from which Pontypool were unlikely to recover. It was a sign for umbrellas to make their hasty exit. John Davies, emerging from somewhere in the murk, sealed the home side's fate with a try in the dying minutes.

SCORERS: Pontypool: Try: Billen. Dropped goal: Ring. Neath: Tries: Thomas, J Davies. Penalty goals: McCarthy (3).

PONTYPOOL: P Armstrong, P Taylor, L Jones, M Taylor, B Taylor; M Ring, M Hayter; S Haile, G Thomas, D Crimmins, C Billen, L Mruk, K Stewart, G Taylor, L Issac

NEATH: P Thorburn; R Jones, L Davies, H Woodland, A Shaw; M McCarthy, D Llewellyn; M Morgan, A Thomas, J Davies, C Wyatt, Glyn Llewellyn, Gareth Llewellyn, I Boobyer, R Morris.

Referee: P Soroka (Ystradgynlais)

Bristol fashion back row mastery

Bristol 19
Newport 5

By Peter Bills

CHRISTMAS is the manifestation of tradition, and rugby at yuletide is no exception. An old-fashioned Anglo-Welsh fixture, played in lashing rain driven in on a cold strong wind from the Bristol Channel, seemed appropriate for the time of year. There were even a couple of traditional punch-ups; nothing very serious, but all part of the scene.

The heavy pitch did its spiteful best to upset most creative intentions. Mistakes inevitably were frequent on a muddy, slippery surface, yet both sides did enough to provide no small degree of entertainment.

Both were well below full strength, but the object of the exercise, for Newport, will have been to assess some likely first-team candidates for the second half of the season. With relegation gloomily threatening, it was at least reassuring for Newport folk to see the Gareth Rees, the Canada stand-off half, back in a club shirt.

Rees was much below his best, failing with three penalty goal attempts in the opening 16 minutes, but if Newport are to escape the relegation nightmare they fear, then Rees will surely be a key performer in the final months of the season.

Bristol's first choice pack is one of the finest in England and they clearly have some back-up for the seniors. Patten, who is a first XV player of renown, understandably excelled, although others worked as hard. Bristol's pack drove the ball strongly. Behind them, Edmonds, whose penalty goal into the wind after four minutes gave Bristol early encouragement, kicked astutely. The two penalty goals he landed downwind in the second half helped Bristol exchange an interval deficit for a 9-5 lead before two tries settled it.

Patten scored the first, after 57 minutes, driving through Yendle for the try after Matthews and Down had explored the blind side. Fifteen minutes later, Edmonds dummied to drop at goal, nipped down the short side and Crossland sent Watkins over.

Given the workrate of the Bristol back row, it was appropriate that both their tries came from this department, although Atkins did many good things at No 8 for Newport.

Newport made too many errors to prosper, but Atkins made a try for Parfitt in the first half with a pick up at the base of the scrum. But they were always slightly second best up front; and on such a day, that was crucial.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Patten, Watkins Penalty goals: Edmonds (3). Newport: Try: Parfitt.

BRISTOL: D Bennett, S Crossland, N Matthews, N Smith, A Williams; N Edmonds, M Chudleigh; P Smith, A Lathrope, K Fullman, I Patten, P Adams, S Barclay, D Watkins, C Barrow. Bennet replaced by A Down (30min).

NEWPORT: M Yendle; M Jones, D Hughes, J Lowrey, M Llewellyn, G Rees, J Parfitt; M Rogers, T Rodgers, S Kronk, D Roberts, N Jones, M Workman, D Grey, B Atkins. Parfitt replaced by A Peacock (40)

Referee: C Reeks (Somerset)

Busy Chalmers shows healthy appetite

Melrose 18
Gala 15

By Alan Lorimer

MELROSE, always a team to excel after the turn of the year, gave indications at the Greenyards yesterday that this season would be no exception by coming from behind to defeat Gala in a Bank of Scotland Border League match.

As well as the renewal of local rivalry, the game was as much about the clash between the two Scotland stand-offs, Craig Chalmers and Gregor Townsend. It was only Townsend's second game since returning from the injury that has kept him out for virtually all of this season. But he showed sharpness, an appetite for tackling and a penchant for the inventive that so characterised his rise to the top. Understandably, Chalmers was not at his best, having played a hard game for South against Glasgow on Saturday. Even so, he still provided the generalship and composure required to guide his team to victory.

There were glimpses of the pace of Craig Joiner, the Melrose man tipped by many to be Scotland's right wing this season. Equally impressive was Chris Dalgleish on the left, who also looks the kind of speedy player that Scotland need.

Derek Bain scored a crucial try for Melrose in the first period, following a break by Scott Aitken, to help his side to a 13-3 half-time lead, the other points coming from the boot of Gary Parker.

Michael Dods steadily kicked Gala back into the game and when Townsend dropped a goal, they were briefly in the lead. Melrose, however, illustrated their competitive qualities with a series of driving assaults, following one of which Robbie Brown emerged from a pile of bodies to claim the winning try.

SCORERS: Melrose: Tries: Bain, Brown. Conversion: Parker. Penalty goal: Parker Dropped goal: Parker. Gala: Penalty goals: Dods (4). Dropped goal: Townsend.

MELROSE: D Bain; C Joiner, J Shiel, I Leighton, G Parker; C Chalmers, B Redpath; I Cornwall, S Scott, D Lunn, A Kerr, R Brown, E Simpson, S Aitken, G Weir.

GALA: M Dods; M Moncrieff, C Townsend, G Bayley, C Dalgleish; G Townsend, G Ferguitterson; G Isaac, I Corcoran, A Johnston, M Ballantyne, R Hogg, G Peden, J Amos, T Weir. Townsend replaced by D Changleng, 52 min.

Referee: C Muir (Langholm).

Leicester see cloud on horizon for Barbarians game

By David Hands

SINCE 1909, Leicester and the Barbarians have joined in annual combat over Christmas or, if the weather has intervened, later in the season. They meet again at Welford Road today for the 77th time but a shadow falls across a traditional fixture which, hitherto, has looked as strong as any.

Next season, the Rugby Football Union has designated December 30 as a league Saturday and Leicester's understanding is that this is not likely to change thereafter. Therefore, the Tigers will be forced to consider which of two adjacent games is more significant for them, the feast against as many celebrities as the Barbarians can draw together at holiday time or the relentless quest for league crumbs.

A quick poll of the club's players suggests that they place as high a premium on the Baa-baas game as any. Down the years, before league rugby, the fixture was the high point of their calendar and Leicester players regarded it as a signal honour to appear against a swath of international players — the only time that many of them were likely to do so.

That sentiment remains, even though half the present Leicester XV have won honours of one kind or another with England.

To sustain it, however, the Barbarians for their part must ensure as attractive a team as possible, even if it means bringing players from overseas, as they have in past years, from France and even Australia. To that end, Leicester would be prepared to help underwrite their expenses in acknowledgement of the value of their long association.

Today, the Barbarian mixture is less exotic than has sometimes been the case, a modest helping of seven internationals against a Leicester side which has seen little action during the hiatus in league fixtures, two of their scheduled games in that period having been cancelled.

Nick Beal, the England A utility back, has been withdrawn from the Barbarians at the request of Ian McGeechan, his director of rugby at Northampton. McGeechan is keen to develop Beal as a full back and wanted to see him play there against Stirling County yesterday; he is replaced by Cameron Glasgow, of Heriot's FP and Scotland A, who is likely to play on the wing with Damian Hopley moving to centre.

Sadly, the anticipated contest between Simon Shaw, the Bristol lock, and Martin Johnson — both of whom travel with England to Lanzarote on Thursday — will not materialise. Johnson has withdrawn from the Leicester pack with a sore shoulder.

Another guest team receives an airing today, though in a more melancholy cause. Crawshay's Welsh play Newbridge in a match to commemorate Steve Fealey, the Newbridge and Wales A scrum half, who died in a work accident last September: it speaks well of such players as the Llewellyn brothers, from Neath, and Garin Jenkins that, alongside international commitments, they have agreed to join in the tribute to a fine player.

☐ The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, saw referee Nick Lacey short-change Rugby in their 27-18 defeat at Moseley yesterday. The official blew for time nine minutes early after his watch went wrong.

LEICESTER: W Kilford; S Hackney, S Potter, D Edwards, R Underwood, N Malone, J Hamilton; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, C Tetbuck, M Johnson, T Smith, N Back, D Richards.

BARBARIANS: J Callard (Bath and England); C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), D Hopley (Wasps), M Taylor (Pontypool and Wales), K Logan (Stirling County and Scotland); C Chalmers (Melrose and Scotland), R Howley (Bridgend), R Evans (Llanelli and Wales), G Dawe (Bath and England), P Burnell (London Scottish and Scotland), E Peters (Bath), S Shaw (Bristol), A Blackmore (Bristol), D Eves (Bristol), G Manson-Bishop (Newport).

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

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CHRIS COLE



Arazi, ridden by Pat Valenzuela, gave the French a spectacular success in the 1991 Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Churchill Downs in Kentucky

Europeans plan Cup alternative

Advocates of a European Breeders' Day, similar to the Breeders' Cup series in the United States, are to press ahead with the project after it emerged last week that the financial burden on European entrants to the Breeders' Cup is to increase alarmingly. This development all but negates wide-scale European participation in the annual $10 million jamboree.

Proposals for a European Breeders' Day have won the support of the European Breeders' Fund (EBF), which has pledged £1 million towards the first running of the event, scheduled for Germany in the late-summer of 1996.

Other sources of revenue are to be sought from racecourses, European racing authorities, television rights, commercial sponsorship and simulcasts of the day for betting purposes.

The initiative comes largely from France. Together with those from Italy and Germany, the French representatives on the EBF initially opposed the Breeders' Cup deal. Eventually, however, the fee increase, favoured by the British and Irish, was sanctioned in exchange for the £1 million commitment towards a European Breeders' Day.

The idea is to package together five group one races and two valuable handicaps to revolve around participating countries.

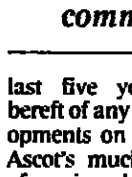
The concept is not new, but the French are adamant that the majority of owners based in their country will not, now, contest Breeders' Cup races. They argue that the plethora of American turf races outside the Breeders' Cup series will make more attractive targets. Instead, they want Europe to embrace a high-profile day of its own.

It would be foolish for European Breeders' Day to be established in direct competition to the Breeders' Cup. Thankfully, that is not the intention, although the hurdles in its path are formidable.

Much will depend on the willingness of all European racing nations to embrace the plan, which will require the unanimous agreement of the European Pattern Race Committee. The committee will certainly not sanction the creation of five new group one races: nor will it allow established races to be culled from member countries. Quite how these obstacles can be overcome is hard to perceive.

The concept of a European Breeders' Day is laudable and should be encouraged. The

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing commentary

last five years have been bereft of any significant developments on the racing front. Ascot's much-touted Festival of racing has not worked. Europe has its established racing festivals, like Royal Ascot and the weekends of the Irish Derby and the Arc. Yet these occasions lack an impetus the French want to provide. In company with the Germans and Italians, they are determined not to be obstructed by the alliance of Britain and Ireland.

Of course, any proposed European Breeders' Day will fall flat without the commitment of Britain and Ireland. But there is a great deal more at stake than that. Although the European Pattern Race Committee urgently needs to overhaul the Pattern system, which offers a co-ordinated programme to test the best racehorses, the Pattern has largely succeeded in sustaining a precious unity among European nations. Any splintering of the committee would be deeply damaging.

A difference of opinion in the Pattern Committee ranks would merely reflect the present divisions within the EBF: the same countries are represented on both organisations.

In the 12 years of its existence, the EBF has been a boon to European racing. Essentially developed by the British, it has generated millions in race sponsorship in addition to securing European Breeders' Cup participation "at hugely favourable entry fees. This latter aspect, now the root of the EBF's dilemma, illustrates that success brings its own problems.

Does the EBF abandon its policy of funding up to 80 per cent of all two-year-old maiden races, which makes it imperative for all horses to register with the fund? Or does it pursue the theme of the European Breeders' Day, a concept aimed at grabbing headlines for the sport? A grand day would certainly attract more attention than the low-value, blanket support provided by the present policy of the EBF.

It is the preferable option, particularly as European racing has seen nothing along such lines since the development of the Arc weekend some ten years ago. Either way, the EBF is clearly at a crossroads. That it has been of great benefit to European racing is beyond argument, but the time is ripe for those involved to unite behind the concept of a banner race-day for Europe.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

1.00 Seaward. 1.30 Clyde Ranger. 2.00 Blue Laws. 2.30 Viking Flagship. 3.05 Newlands-General. 3.35 Raisin Turf.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.00 BRADFORD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,924: 2m) (14 runners)

1 3432 HEATHYARDS CRUSADE 11 (BF,S) R Hollinshead 11-5 S Wynne (3)
2 65 ASTRAL INVASION 10 (B) W Clay 10-12 Diane Clay
3 BANANA COVE 75F Mrs J Cecil 10-12 T Kent
4 GOBSMACKED 45F G Richards 10-12 M Moloney
5 22 GOLDEN HELLO 42 (BF) M H Easterby 10-12 L Wyer
6 40 GOLDEN STAR 10 M W Easterby 10-12 Mr S Swiers
7 LIGHTNING QUEST 101F J Wainwright 10-12 P Midgley (3)
8 2 MUZRAK 10 M Hammond 10-12 P Niven
9 NEZ CARRERA 228F R Whitaker 10-12 C Hawkins
10 0 STROLLING MINSTREL 10 B Rothwell 10-12 J Supple (5)
11 0000 AUNTIE FAY 11 (B) B Rothwell 10-7 A S Smith
12 CHOWPOR 131F M Hammond 10-7 D Bentley (3)
13 346 RAMBOLLINA 24 M W Easterby 10-7 J Driscoll (7)
14 20 SEAWARD 15 (BF) D Nicholson 10-7 A Maguire

11-4 Golden Hello, 4-1 Gobsmacked, 5-1 Seaward, 6-1 Banana Cove, 8-1 Muzrak, 10-1 Heathyards Crusade, 12-1 Rambollina, 14-1 others.

1.30 BICKERTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,432: 3m 110yd) (4)

1 0PP- STIRRUP CUP 293 (D,G,S) C Egerton 10-11-11 A Procter (3)
2 2U-1 CLYDE RANGER 24 (CD,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-1 B Storey
3 -F82 ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 25 (D,BF,F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-10-12 A Maguire
4 14-4 ROAD BY THE RIVER 34 (D,G,S) P Cheesbrough 6-10-0 L Wyer

5-4 Clyde Ranger, 7-4 Arthur's Minstrel, 6-1 Road By The River, 10-1 Stirrup Cup.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 12 winners from 35 runners, 34.3%; J Gifford, 4 from 16, 25.0%; M Barnes, 3 from 14, 21.4%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 20 from 105, 19.0%; G Richards, 22 from 118, 18.6%; M H Easterby, 25 from 135, 18.5%.

JOCKEYS: A Maguire, 15 winners from 59 rides, 25.4%; L Wyer, 31 from 134, 23.1%; P Niven, 39 from 171, 22.8%; D J Moffatt, 4 from 21, 19%; D Bentley, 5 from 35, 14.3%; M Moloney, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

2.00 LONG MARSTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,861: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1 -9FF DOMINANT SERENADE 8 (BF,G,S) M Hammond 5-12-0 P Niven
2 -505 DEB'S BALL 20 (C,D,F,G,S) D Moffatt 8-11-10 D J Moffatt (3)
3 5-00 PEANUTS PET 40 (CD,F,G,S) T Tate 9-11-6 R Garritty
4 3243 COUTURE STOCKINGS 52 (CD,F,G,S) J Mackie 10-11-3 T Eley (3)
5 -P60 MONTPELIER LAD 17 (F,G,S) G Richards 7-10-13 M Moloney
6 -F52 BURNT IMP 20 (C,F,G,S) G Moore 4-10-11 J Callaghan
7 F000 WHO'S TEF 11 (F) M H Easterby 8-10-5 L Wyer
8 2215 BEND SABLE 31 (C,BF,F,S) F Storey 4-10-5 B Storey
9 -124 BLUE LAWS 20 (CD,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-10-1 A Maguire
10 3306 FLASS VALE 8 (D,F) C Fairhurst 6-10-0 C Hawkins

7-2 Burnt Imp, 4-1 Couture Stockings, 5-1 Blue Laws, 6-1 Bend Sable, 7-1 Peanuts Pet, 8-1 Deb's Ball, 12-1 others.

2.30 CASTLEFORD CHASE
(Grade II: £24,640: 2m) (6)

1 3123 DEEP SENSATION 24 (D,F,G,S) J Gifford 9-11-10 P Hide
2 12-1 VIKING FLAGSHIP 24 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-10 A Maguire
3 0-26 SYBILLIN 24 (D,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-6 P Niven
4 3-14 UNCLE ERNIE 10 (C,D,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-11-6 L Wyer
5 2-P2 SNITTON LANE 18 (D,F,G,S) W Clay 8-11-1 Richard Guest
6 0132 POLITICAL TOWER 20 (D,G,S) M Barnes 7-11-0 G Cahill

11-10 Viking Flagship, 3-1 Sybillin, 7-2 Deep Sensation, 8-1 Uncle Ernie, 20-1 Snitton Lane, 33-1 Political Tower.

3.05 APPLETON ROEBUCK NOVICES CHASE
(£3,340: 2m) (4)

1 3211 SEAGULL HOLLOW 11 (D,G,S) M H Easterby 5-11-12 L Wyer
2 -13F NEWLANDS-GENERAL 11 (G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-6 P Niven
3 22PU STOP THE WALLER 8 M Barnes 5-11-0 A Maguire
4 4626 WAKE UP 11 (BF,F,G,S) M H Easterby 7-11-0 R Garritty

4-5 Newlands-General, 11-8 Seagull Hollow, 6-1 Wake Up, 33-1 Stop The Waller.

3.35 BRAMHAM NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,740: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 240- BANCHORY 245 M W Easterby 5-11-10 L Wyer
2 0-22 OAT COUTURE 50 (BF) L Lungo 6-11-3 T Reed
3 6-04 KENILWORTH 11 Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-10-11 E Callaghan (7)
4 0-43 TALOS 19 D Moffatt 6-10-8 D J Moffatt (3)
5 -P22 RAISIN TURF 15 D Nicholson 5-10-4 A Maguire
6 0455 ASK FOR BARNEY 11 B Rothwell 5-10-0 J Supple (5)
7 6-43 KADARI 6 (B) W Clay 5-10-0 Diane Clay
8 -P4U ONE FOR THE CHIEF 52 (G,S) R Whitaker 6-10-0 C Hawkins
9 F000 BYARDS LEAP 21 N Chamberlain 6-10-0 Richard Guest

11-4 Raisin Turf, 3-1 Banchory, 7-2 Kenilworth, 5-1 Oat Couture, 8-1 Talos, 10-1 One For The Chief, 12-1 Kadari, 14-1 others.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

11.50 Primula Bairn. 12.20 Bold Frontier. 12.50 Press The Bell. 1.20 Absalom's Pillar. 1.55 Top Shiel. 2.30 Posted Abroad. 3.00 Off The Air. 3.30 Karinska.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
2.30 Posted Abroad.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

11.50 STRIDER CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: £2,398: 5f) (11 runners)

1 0040 GREEN'S BID 10 (G) D Chapman 4-9-0 Dale Gibson 4
2 0000 HIGH DOMAIN 20 (B,D,G,S) M McCormack 3-8-13 T G McLaughlin (5) 3
3 3510 VERY DICEY 10 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 6-9-13 P Roberts (7) 11
4 0- NORTHGATE RAVER 636 R Thompson 3-8-12 L Newton (5) 6
5 0000 MISS SIHAM 99 (D,F,G,S) J Balding 5-8-6 Claire Balding (7) 5
6 0060 ROSINA'S FOLLY 41 J L Harris 3-8-6 N Carlisle 8
7 4050 MATTHEW DAVID 35 (CD,G) S Bowring 4-8-5 C Teague (7) 10
8 4400 PRIMULA BAIRN 17 (V,D,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-4 A Mackay 9
9 0-6- BASSETLAW BELLE 725 N Littmoden 5-8-0 C Adamson (7) 7
10 0053 GRANMAS DELIGHT 7 K Ivory 3-8-0 D Biggs 1
11 00-0 MY FOXY LADY 225 J A Harris 4-7-12 S Lanigan (7) 2

3-1 Very Dicey, 4-1 Primula Bairn, 9-2 High Domain, Granmas Delight, 6-1 Green's Bid, Rosina's Folly, 8-1 others.

12.20 ROHAN NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £2,671: 5f) (5)

1 2011 GO HEVER GOLF 7 (G) T Naughton 10-0 (7ex) V Halliday (7) 1
2 1600 BOLD FRONTIER 98 (B,CD,G) K Ivory 8-11 R Cochrane 2
3 6562 C-YER-SIMMIE 27 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 8-9 A Garth (5) 3
4 5050 FISHY AFFAIR 20 T Dyer 7-7 S Lanigan (7) 5
5 0003 HALF TONE 27 (B) R Flower 7-7 Martin Dwyer (7) 4

6-4 Go Hever Golf, 5-2 C-Yer-Simmie, 7-2 Half Tone, 9-2 Fishy Affair, 16-1 Bold Frontier.

12.50 STRIDER CLAIMING STAKES
(Div II: £2,398: 5f) (11)

1 0133 PRESS THE BELL 13 (D,BF,F,G,S) J Berry 4-9-1 W Woods 10
2 0000 HIGH HOLME 12 (V,D,G) D Thom 3-8-13 S Webster 2
3 00- LUNAR PRINCE 409 T Clement 4-8-11 A Mackay 7
4 0000 SIR TASKER 12 (CD,F,G) J L Harris 6-8-11 R Cochrane 11
5 4204 BLACK BOY 12 (B) R Marvin 5-8-9 D Griffiths (5) 3
6 6034 SWIFT NICK NEVISON 13 K Ivory 3-8-9 Amanda Sanders (7) 1
7 5400 GORODENKA BOY 104 Mrs J Jordan 4-8-7 A Morris 8
8 -005 SISON 20 (D,G) K Wingrove 4-8-7 J McLaughlin 9
9 4000 HENRY THE HAWK 59 (V) M Dods 3-8-5 Dale Gibson 6
10 5000 FLORAC 87 (D,F) J Balding 4-8-4 N Carlisle 4
11 5000 LAST STRAW 71 (CD,G) B Preece 6-8-3 Claire Balding (7) 5

9-4 Press The Bell, 11-4 Sison, 4-1 Sir Tasker, 5-1 Henry The Hawk, 8-1 High Holme, 12-1 Last Straw, 16-1 Black Boy, 20-1 others.

1.20 DAVY MINING HANDICAP
(£2,821: 1m 6f) (10)

1 -201 PHARLY DANCER 27 (CD,G) W Haigh 5-10-0 Dale Gibson 7
2 030- ELECTROLYTE 363J (CD,G) B Palling 4-9-13 C Rutter 2
3 014- MIZYAN 19J (C,D,G) J Banks 6-9-12 S Keightley 5
4 2413 ABSALOM'S PILLAR 12 (CD,BF,G,S) J Hetherton 4-9-12 N Carlisle 9
5 4606 ARCTIC GUEST 7 (CD,F,G) C Smith 4-9-11 S Lanigan (7) 6
6 4000 DURSHAN 99 (D,F,G) J Jenkins 5-9-1 D Biggs 4
7 44-5 SHAFFIC 319 (F) Mrs M Reveley 7-8-13 R Cochrane 1
8 2035 BETTY KENWOOD 120J Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-5 A Mackay 8
9 1466 ROSE OF GLENN 12 (D,F,G) B Palling 3-8-4 Stephen Davies 10
10 5560 MR MORIARTY 101J S Bowring 3-7-7 Claire Balding (7) 3

2-1 Pharly Dancer, 5-2 Mizyan, 4-1 Shaffic, 6-1 Absalom's Pillar, 8-1 Rose Of Glenn, 14-1 Betty Kenwood, 16-1 Arctic Guest, 20-1 others.

1.55 SARUMAN SELLING STAKES
(Div I: £2,190: 1m 3f) (10)

1 1240 TOP SHIEL 66 (CD,BF,G) K Burke 6-9-7 R Cochrane 4
2 0305 DAWN ROCK 26 (V,CD,G) P Kelleway 3-9-3 Adelle Gibbons (7) 5
3 0555 COMTEC'S LEGEND 27 (CD,F,G) J Bottomley 4-9-2 Dale Gibson 3
4 0000 BRITANNIA MILLS 59J (F) M Chapman 3-8-12 M Harris (7) 1
5 -000 TANFIRION CHIEF 12 R Thompson 3-8-11 L Newton (5) 2
6 00-0 UCKERBY LAD 19J N Littmoden 3-8-11 T G McLaughlin (5) 6
7 0060 LOMBARD SHIPS 7 (B,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-8-10 A Mackay 9
8 0 TRY AGAIN JANE 36J (V) D Eddy 4-8-10 N Carlisle 10
9 0000 HI PENNY 13 (B) K Ivory 3-8-6 D Biggs 7
10 0000 LITTLE MINER 19J B Palling 3-8-6 C Rutter 8

7-4 Top Shiel, 5-2 Dawn Rock, 9-2 Lombard Ships, 5-1 Britannia Mills, 10-1 Try Again Jane, 14-1 Comtec's Legend, 16-1 Hi Penny, 20-1 others.

2.30 CARPET CONTRACTORS NOTTINGHAM MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,304: 6f) (12)

1 5520 ALMUHTARAM 144 W Haigh 9-0 Dale Gibson 1
2 CROCODILE ROCK M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 Stephen Davies 11
3 02 LOGIE 26 M Jarvis 9-0 W Woods 10
4 0 PC'S CRUISER 12 M Chapman 9-0 M Harris (7) 4
5 33 POSTED ABROAD 12 M Prescott 9-0 C Nutter 12
6 0644 PURSUANCE 12 J Balding 9-0 J Edmunds (7) 3
7 DENT'S DELIGHT D Chapman 8-9 S Webster 2
8 LOTTIES BID P Felgate 8-9 A Mackay 7
9 0 MISS SUZY 73 J Leigh 8-9 C Rutter 5
10 06 PORTELET 10 R Williams 8-9 D Biggs 8
11 3 TAEL OF SILVER 41 K Burke 8-9 R Cochrane 6
12 0 TRAVEL OUT 95 Mrs M Reveley 8-9 D Griffiths (5) 9

11-4 Almuhtaram, 3-1 Logie, 7-2 Posted Abroad, 5-1 Crocodile Rock, 6-1 Tael of Silver, 12-1 Pursuance, 16-1 Dent's Delight, 20-1 others.

3.00 SARUMAN SELLING STAKES
(Div II: £2,190: 1m 3f) (9)

1 1146 BRACKENTHWAITE 258 (C,BF,G) L Lloyd-James 4-9-7 A Whelan (5) 4
2 1340 GREEK GOLD 35 (CD,G) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-1 R Cochrane 1
3 0400 PUFFY 27 (V,F,G,S) M Dods 7-9-1 W Woods 7
4 0000 TRAIL OF TEARS 73 W Haigh 4-9-1 Dale Gibson 3
5 3000 OFF THE AIR 17 (V,C,G,S) I Campbell 3-8-12 A Mackay 9
6 0530 BETABETCORBETT 10J B Baugh 3-8-11 P Roberts (7) 5
7 0000 HAY DANCE 12 J Leigh 3-8-11 C Rutter 2
8 ASMARINA 32J S Bowring 4-8-10 S Webster 6
9 60 FELINE 29 R Johnson Houghton 3-8-6 Stephen Davies 8

9-4 Brackenthwaite, 4-1 Greek Gold, 5-1 Puffy, Off The Air, 6-1 others.

3.30 ELROND HANDICAP (£2,801: 7f) (14)

1 4114 SANDMOOR DENIM 17 (CD,BF,F,G) S Bowring 7-10-0 G Strange (7) 9
2 6053 DREAM CARRIER 35 (CD,F,G) T Barron 6-9-12 R Cochrane 8
3 0050 KARINSKA 10J (C,D,F,G) M Chapman 4-9-10 M Harris (7) 7
4 1300 WATHEEQAH 37 (B,F) M Brittain 3-9-1 S Webster 8
5 0000 ALJAZ 12 (C,G) D Thom 4-9-0 A Mackay 2
6 0040 ORTHORHOMBUS 12 (B,F) D Cosgrove 5-8-12 L Newton (5) 11
7 3315 LANGTONIAN 12 (V,C,BF,G) J Eyre 5-8-9 N Carlisle 3
8 6000 EARLY STAR 13J (B,CD,G) K Bishop 5-8-7 A Whelan (5) 5
9 5034 JAMAICA BRIDGE 113 (C,BF,G) S Norton 4-8-6 D Griffiths (5) 10
10 2232 SHARP IMP 13 (B,D,BF,F) R Flower 4-8-4 Stephen Davies 13
11 3326 CLEDESCHAMPS 27 (G) M Ellerby 5-8-2 Claire Balding (7) 4
12 0006 BALLAD DANCER 17 (D,F,G,S) J Mackie 9-8-1 C Rutter 14
13 003 WILD ADVENTURE 6J D Chapman 5-7-9 Dale Gibson 1
14 1200 OOZLEM 37 (B,F) R Flower 5-7-7 S Lanigan (7) 12

3-1 Dream Carrier, 4-1 Sandmoor Denim, 5-1 Sharp Imp, Langtonian, 8-1 Karinska, Jamaica Bridge, Ballad Dancer, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 12 winners from 55 runners, 21.8%; M Jarvis, 7 from 33, 21.2%; T Barron, 63 from 320, 19.7%; S Norton, 34 from 176, 19.3%; M Prescott, 27 from 142, 19.0%; J Berry, 40 from 258, 15.5%.

JOCKEYS: M Harris, 3 winners from 15 rides, 20.0%; J McLaughlin, 7 from 39, 17.9%; D Biggs, 33 from 199, 16.6%; C Nutter, 5 from 33, 15.2%; G Strange, 4 from 32, 12.5%. Only qualifiers.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.25 El Nido. 1.55 Sea Devil. 2.25 Failte Ro. 2.55 Quinzii Martin. 3.25 Ziggy's Dancer. 3.55 Curie Express. 4.25 Secret Aly.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
2.25 Gulf Shaadi. 4.25 SECRET ALY (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.25 HIMLEY HANDICAP
(£2,398: 1m 4f) (12 runners)

1 0404 CAN CAN CHARLIE 13 (B,G,S) J Pearce 4-10-0 G Bardwell 12
2 6431 EL NIDO 12 (D,F,G,S) M Camacho 6-9-12 M Rimmer 5
3 0031 NOUFARI 17 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 3-9-9 M Wigham 3
4 3440 PREMIER DANCE 27 (CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 7-9-7 J Williams 11
5 3100 DONIA 14J (CD,G) J L Harris 5-9-5 S D Williams 8
6 5560 MODEST HOPE 12 (D,F,G) B Richmond 7-9-1 N Adams 10
7 2000 MR BEAN 88J (CD,G) K Burke 4-8-12 D Harrison 1
8 0000 MANOLETE 65 (B) W Elsey 3-8-7 N Kennedy 7
9 2605 BROUGHTON'S PRIDE 12 J Glover 3-8-7 G Carter 6
10 2041 CARLTON EXPRESS 26 (D,G) J Eyre 4-8-6 A Clark 2
11 0050 MIGHTY KINGDOM 12 R Emery 3-8-3 B Doyle 9
12 0000 DERRICKS REFUSAL 158 Capt J Wilson 3-8-2 N Varley (5) 4

7-2 Noufari, 4-1 El Nido, 5-1 Carlton Express, 7-1 Can Can Charlie, 8-1 Broughton's Pride, Premier Dance, 10-1 Mr Bean, 12-1 others.

1.55 DUNSTON CLAIMING GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (£2,398: 6f) (13)

1 1351 EVERSET 1 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-9-7 D Wright (5) 1
2 0003 SAMSON-AGONISTES 12 (C,D,F,G,S) P Evans 8-8-13 S Sanders (5) 2
3 4- BOLD CYRANO 826 B Palling 3-8-7 A Clark 6
4 0000 EDUCATED PET 143 (C,D,F,G,S) B Preece 5-8-7 J Williams 5
5 1560 SEA DEVIL 35 (CD,F,G,S) M Camacho 8-8-7 M Rimmer 8
6 0601 WALK THE BEAT 35 (D,F,G,S) R Simpson 4-8-7 S Drowne (5) 9
7 1106 DELROB 41 (C,G) D Haydn Jones 3-8-4 N Varley (5) 12
8 0000 CHEERFUL GROOM 1 (F) J Mackie 3-8-3 M Fenton 7
9 0120 FRISKY MISS 17 (D,BF,F,S) J Berry 3-8-3 G Carter 11
10 4000 TRIOMING 13 (V,F) A Jones 8-8-3 N Adams 10
11 0540 OLIFANTSFONTEIN 31 (D,BF,F,G,S) D Nicholls 6-8-1 A Eddery (7) 3
12 0043 NEEDWOOD SWIFT 169 B McMahon 3-8-0 D Harrison 13
13 6066 DAUNTLESS FORT 12 (D,G) B Murray 3-7-11 J Quinn 4

7-4 Everset, 5-1 Walk The Beat, 6-1 Frisky Miss, 8-1 Samson-Agonistes, Sea Devil, 10-1 Delrob, 12-1 Bold Cyrano, 14-1 others.

2.25 CANNOCK NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £2,788: 7f) (12)

1 5061 GULF SHAADI 10 (D,G) C Brittain 9-7 B Doyle 5
2 2221 KOMREYEV DANCER 1 (G) A Bailey 9-4 (7ex) D Wright (5) 1
3 6011 MASTER MILLFIELD 1 (D,G) C Hill 8-10 (7ex) S Sanders (5) 10
4 012 FAILTE RO 46 (S) J Banks 8-7 J Quinn 11
5 0610 CASPER'S RISK 26 (B,C,D,G) D Nicholls 8-4 A Eddery (7) 12
6 0242 BOLD EFFORT 7 K Cunningham-Brown 8-3 A Clark 2
7 0613 MEDIATE 20 (D,BF,F,G) R Hannon 8-2 T Williams 4
8 4404 NEVER TIME 64 Mrs V Aconley 7-13 S Drowne (5) 9
9 0005 KEYS SEMINAR 7 (B) N Callaghan 7-7 G Bardwell 6
10 005 BLACK SHADOW 26 P McBride 7-7 R Mullen (7) 3
11 4043 REPONIST 17 (V,BF) M Camacho 7-7 Darren Moffatt (3) 8
12 0000 FRANKLINSBOY 7 Capt J Wilson 7-7 N Varley (5) 7

3-1 Gulf Shaadi, 4-1 Komreyev Dancer, 5-1 Master Millfield, 7-1 Mediate, 8-1 Never Time, 10-1 Failte Ro, 12-1 Bold Effort, 14-1 others.

2.55 DUDLEY HANDICAP (£2,398: 7f) (12)

1 0326 FARASTRADA 169 B Preece 3-10-0 T Wall 3
2 0006 FARMER JOCK 17 (C,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 12-9-1 M Fenton 11
3 0526 PRINCESS SHERA 166 E Alston 3-8-11 J Quinn 5
4 4400 CHARLIES DREAM 1 (C,G) K Burke 3-8-11 N Adams 6
5 0060 TITANIUM HONDA 27 C Brittain 3-8-11 B Doyle 1
6 0000 PRINCE RODNEY 13 (B,D,F,G,S) C Drewe 5-8-9 R Perham 7
7 5003 BELMONT PRINCESS 133 A Jones 4-8-8 S Drowne (5) 10
8 0100 KINNEGAD KID 103 (B,S) R Ingram 5-8-7 G Carter 2
9 0000 QUINZII MARTIN 13 (CD,G) D Haydn Jones 6-8-7 J Williams 4
10 0006 WAVERLEY STAR 26 (F,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 9-8-5 A Clark 6
11 0060 TILLY OWL 136 J A Harris 3-7-13 J O'Reilly 12
12 0050 BECKYHANNAH 67 (B,S) R Bastiman 4-7-13 D Wright (5) 9

11-4 Belmont Princess, 4-1 Farmer Jock, 9-2 Farastrada, 6-1 Charlies Dream, 8-1 Titanium Honda, Kinnegad Kid, 10-1 Waverley Star, 12-1 others.

3.25 GAILEY MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,289: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 430- AMLAK 523 T Kersey 5-9-0 B Doyle 4
2 0000 BALLYHAYS 31 J A Harris 5-9-0 S D Williams 10
3 D K REUNION 10J R Hollinshead 4-9-0 A Eddery (7) 11
4 0006 GALLOP TO GLORY 12 A Forbes 4-9-0 B Russell (5) 6
5 0 DRAGONFLIGHT 63 D Haydn Jones 3-8-13 S Drowne (5) 12
6 GREAT BOND B McMahon 3-8-13 G Carter 7
7 6000 QUIET MISSION 26 J Eyre 3-8-13 A Clark 3
8 5600 SKY DIVER 25J B Llewellyn 3-8-13 J Quinn 2
9 44 SUPERCOOL 64 B McMahon 3-8-13 S Sanders (5) 8
10 6020 ZIGGY'S DANCER 62 E Alston 3-8-13 D Wright (5) 5
11 5000 MISS CHARLIE 29 A Bailey 4-8-9 G Bardwell 13
12 0 CELESTIAL FAITH 7 M Johnston 3-8-8 T Williams 1
13 4400 ROCK TO SLEEP 122 Lord Huntingdon 3-8-8 D Harrison 9

3-1 Supercool, 7-2 Ziggy's Dancer, Rock To Sleep, 6-1 Amlak, 8-1 Gallop To Glory, 10-1 Ballyhays, 12-1 Quiet Mission, 14-1 others.

3.55 MORVILLE SELLING GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (2-Y-O: £2,190: 6f) (12)

1 0036 CURIE EXPRESS 27 (F) J Berry 8-11 G Carter 6
2 0102 DAVID JAMES' GIRL 1 (S) A Bailey 8-11 D Wright (5) 4
3 0040 SUPERBIT 95 B McMahon 8-11 S Sanders (5) 3
4 0000 TWO CHALK 13 (V) P Evans 8-11 A Clark 5
5 5060 WINGS OF DESIRE 20 (B) R Champion 8-11 M Rimmer 2
6 0440 GARADICE GIRL 80 K Burke 8-6 A Tucker 10
7 3000 IVY LILIAN 1 W Brisbourne 8-6 A Garth (5) 7
8 6500 KOMLUCKY 12 (B) F O'Mahony 8-6 J Quinn 9
9 0003 LAWNSWOOD LADY 1 (B) R Hollinshead 8-6 D Harrison 12
10 6500 NEEDWOOD NEWT 41 B McMahon 8-6 G Bardwell 11
11 0040 PRINCESS IN BLUE 113 C Hill 8-6 T Williams 1
12 0000 SILENT SKY 17 C Hill 8-6 N Adams 8

3-1 David James' Girl, 4-1 Curie Express, 5-1 Two Chalk, Needwood Newt, 7-1 Princess In Blue, 8-1 Komlucky, 10-1 Lawnswood Lady, 12-1 others.

4.25 BRIDGETOWN HANDICAP
(£3,199: 1m 100yd) (6)

1 0310 DAWALIB 10 (C,D,G) D Haydn Jones 4-10-0 S Drowne (5) 5
2 0031 SECRET ALY 10 (G) C Brittain 4-9-6 M Rimmer 4
3 0000 BRIEF RESPITE 17 (F) E Alston 3-9-1 J Quinn 3
4 2000 PALACEGATE JO 17 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 3-8-13 G Carter 2
5 1612 ROAR ON TOUR 27 (C,D,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-7-11 D Wright (5) 6
6 0000 RAGAZZO 20 K Cunningham-Brown 4-7-7 Darren Moffatt (3) 1

7-4 Secret Aly, 5-2 Roar On Tour, 3-1 Dawalib, 8-1 Ragazzo, 10-1 Palacegate Jo, 16-1 Brief Respite.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Johnston, 17 winners from 48 runners, 35.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 9 from 28, 32.1%; R Bastiman, 3 from 10, 30%; R Ingram, 3 from 11, 27.3%; Lord Huntingdon, 12 from 46, 26.1%; J Glover, 4 from 17, 23.5%.

JOCKEYS: D Harrison, 7 winners from 40 rides, 17.5%; S D Williams, 5 from 39, 12.8%; G Bardwell, 6 from 49, 12.2%; A Clark, 7 from 59, 11.9%; T Williams, 6 from 53, 11.3%; D Wright, 7 from 68, 10.3%.

Blinkered first time

CHEPSTOW: 1.00 Khatir. SOUTHWELL: 11.50 High Domain, 1.55 Hi Penny, Dawn Rock. 3.30 Early Star. WOLVERHAMPTON: 1.25 Can Can Charlie. 1.55 Trioming. 3.55 Komlucky, Lawnswood Lady. WETHERBY: 1.00 Auntie Fay.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TEN BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going: soft

12.45 (2m hdle) 1. WHO IS EQUINAME (M A Fitzgerald, 20-1), 2. Rare Occurance (D Meredith, 100-1), 3. High Low (D Bridgwater, 7-2) ALSO RAN: 5-11 fav Simple Arithmetic (4th), 11-2 Green Lane (5th), 12 Home From The Hill (6th), 20 Second Chance (pu), 25 Hall A Tick (pu), 66 Salsong (f), 100 Bobbie Dee, Merchant House (pu). 11 ran. NR Mirosawki. 3½l, 5l, 13l, 12l, 13l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote £34.40, £3.90, £6.60, £1.40. DF £1,662.50. Trio £423.20. CSF £695.01.

1.15 (3m ch) 1. BROWNHALL (A Maguire, 5-1), 2. Mad Thyme (M A Fitzgerald, 9-2), 3. Sweet Duke (D Bridgwater, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Pashto (pu). 9-2 Call Home (f), Oats Regrets (f). 6 ran. NR: Straight Talk. 20l, 5l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote £7.40, £3.20, £2.70. DF £24.10. CSF £24.48.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1. TRYING AGAIN (J Osborne, 10-1), 2. Kadastrof (D Meredith, 9-4), 3. Keep Me In Mind (D Skyrme, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Shujan (4th). 9 Fikcash (6th). 14 Oneupmanship. 16 Nahar. 20 Royal Derbi (5th). 8 ran. NR Amigos. 12l, 3l, 6l, 3l, 25l. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Tote £11.30, £1.90, £1.20, £2.30. DF £11.60. Trio £28.90. CSF £29.64. Tricast £296.95.

2.20 see facing page

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. HIGH BARON (R Dunwoody, 10-11 fav), 2. Brief Gale (P Hide, 10-3); 3. Kadi (A Maguire, 7-1) ALSO RAN: 5 Percy Thrower (4th), 16 Fair Brother (5th), 25 Local Manor (6th). 6 ran. 5l, 12l, dist, 14l, 14l. R Alner at Blandford Forum. Tote £2.10, £1.60, £2.00. DF £3.40. CSF £4.40.

3.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1. ISLAND JEWEL (M Bosley, 9-4 jt-fav), 2. Maneree (D Bridgwater, 9-2), 3. Your Well (N Williamson, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 jt-fav Her Honour (4th), 11-4 Spring Marathon (5th). 5 ran. NR: Spirit In The Nile, Super Sense. 1½l, 25l, 10l, 7l. J Bosley at Bampton. Tote £3.50, £1.50, £2.20. DF £12.60. CSF £11.72.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £39,155.36 carried forward to Kempton today).
Placepot: £736.10. Quadpot: £41.80.

Wetherby

Going: good

1.00 (2m hdle) 1. THORNTON GATE (L Wyer, 5-2), 2. Queens Consul (G Lee, 11-2), 3. Canaan Lane (A Dobbin, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Fox Sparrow (6th), 13-2 Jihaad, 20 Merry Mermaid (5th), 25 Different Times, 33 Rolling The Bones (4th), 40 Doctor Roy, 50 Greet The Greek, Thomas Rand (pu). 11 ran. NR: Believe It, City Buzz, I'm A Dreamer, Kiltulla, Rua Ros. 2l, 15l, 7l, 9l, 1½l. M H Easterby at Malton. Tote £3.70, £1.80, £1.60, £2.10. DF £8.50. CSF £16.99.

1.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. GENERAL PERSHING (A Dobbin, 15-8 fav), 2. Blazing Walker (M Dwyer, 3-1), 3. Padaventure (L Wyer, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Pal's Jester (pu), 11-2 Lumberjack (4th). 5 ran. 11l, 5l, dist. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote £2.60, £1.80. DF £3.90. CSF £7.44.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1. WEAVER GEORGE (A Dobbin, 7-2); 2. Surrey Dancer (G Lee, 10-11 fav); 3. Cumbrian Challenge (L Wyer, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Col Buckmore (5th), 16 Ballon (4th). 5 ran. NR: Brambleberry, Rattly. ½l, ¾l, 5l, ¾l. J Hellens at Chester-le-Street. Tote £3.40, £1.40, £1.50. DF £2.90. CSF £7.31.

2.30 (3m 110yd ch) 1. COGENT (Mr C Bonner, 7-2), 2. Jodami (M Dwyer, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 4-6 fav One Man (ur). 3 ran. Only two finished. NR Monsieur Le Cure. Dist. J Glover at Worksop. Tote £4.70. DF £4.30. CSF £9.86.

3.00 (3m 110yd ch) 1. UNGUIDED MISSILE (A Dobbin, 9-4), 2. Sparrow Hall (M Dwyer, 11-2); 3. Toogood To Be True (L Wyer, 10-11 fav). ALSO RAN: 9 Cool Weather (ur), 20 Clustogue Jim (pu). 5 ran. NR: Evening Rain. 13l, nk. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote £3.30, £1.30, £2.00. DF £6.50. CSF £13.05.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1. TOP CEES (D Thomas, 4-1), 2. Express Gift (G Lee, 11-10 fav); 3. Shahgram (Mrs A Farrell, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Addington Boy (5th), 8 Briar's Delight, 20 Tico Gold (6th), 25 Gallardini (4th). 7 ran. Nk, dist, 8l, 2½l, 11l. Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk. Tote £3.80; £1.70, £1.70. DF £3.30. CSF £8.97.

Placepot: £125.50. Quadpot: £19.40.

Ayr

Going: soft

1.05 (2m hdle) 1, After Grace (J Supple, 5-1), 2, Panah (6-1), 3, Kirkton Grey (8-1). Canaan Valley 4-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: Naughty Future, Thomas Rand. 3½l, 1¾l. N Mason. Tote £7.40, £2.70, £2.50, £3.60. DF £7.50. CSF £33.92.

1.35 (2m 4f ch) 1. Golden Fiddle (B Storey, 6-1), 2. Grey Power (4-7 fav), 3. Mils Mij (4-1). 6 ran. ¾l, 8l. J Oliver. Tote £4.70: £2.10, £1.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £9.48.

2.05 (2m hdle) 1. Milne's A Villain (D J Moffatt, 5-2), 2. Sakura (7-1) 3. Doon Ridge (5-4 fav) 4 ran. Sh hd, 11l. T Dyer. Tote £3.40. DF: £7.40. CSF £14.05.

2.35 (3m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Eastern Oasis (R Murphy, 4-1); 2. Tartan Tradewinds (Evens fav), 3, Duchess Of Tubber (11-2) 5 ran. 6l, 1¼l. J Andrews. Tote £6.20, £1.70, £1.60. DF £3.60. CSF: £8.16.

3.05 (3m 1f ch) 1. Barney Rubble (B Storey, 7-2), 2. Ali's Alibi (4-7 fav), 3. Sheelin Lad (7-1). 9 ran. 25l, nk. D Whillans. Tote £3.00, £1.60, £1.10, £2.60. DF £2.80. CSF £6.12. Tricast £13.18.

3.35 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Tronchetto (P Niven, 9-2); 2, It's The Pits (100-30), 3. Master Of Troy (3-1 fav). 9 ran. 11l, 20l. J J O'Neill. Tote £4.70, £2.60, £1.70, £2.30. DF £8.20. CSF £20.62. Tricast £49.56.

Placepot: £60.70. Quadpot: £16.60.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DAMIER BLANC
(3.10 Chepstow)

Next best: Clyde Ranger
(1.30 Wetherby)

Hereford

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

12.35 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1. Call It A Day (G Hogan, 11-2), 2. Myland (4-1 jt-fav), 3. Back And Call (5-1). Prince Palacio 4-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. 3l, 12l. D Nicholson. Tote £7.90, £2.50, £1.70, £1.90. DF £15.20. CSF £26.93.

1.05 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1. Great Marquess (W Humphreys, 4-7 fav); 2. Fourth In Line (5-2), 3. Flashman (33-1). 10 ran. 8l, 7l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £1.60, £2.70. DF: £2.20. CSF: £2.74.

1.35 (2m ch) 1. Kytton Castle (R Bellamy, 9-4); 2. I Have Him (5-2), 3. Pontynyswen (2-1 fav). 8 ran. NR: Tokanda. 15l, nk. R Dickin. Tote: £2.60, £1.10, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £4.80. CSF £7.71.

2.05 (3m 2f hdle) 1. Rusty Roc (R Davis, 6-1), 2. Bee Dee Boy (8-1), 3. Charoscuro (16-1). Powleyvale 7-2 fav. 14 ran. NR Irish Stamp, The Boiler White, Washington Heights. 1l, 9l. G Davies. Tote: £5.60; £1.60, £3.40, £2.60. DF £59.00. CSF £52.25. Tricast £685.08.

2.35 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1. Star Mover (T Murphy, 11-8 fav); 2. Rocky Bay (12-1). 3. Tashhub (3-2). 9 ran. NR. Ruth's Gamble. 20l, 25l. W G M Turner. Tote. £2.10, £1.50, £2.40, £1.50. DF £9.00. CSF £17.13. Tricast £56.11.

3.05 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1. Lastofthevikings (A P McCoy, 7-1), 2. New Halen (9-2), 3. Visaga (11-8 fav). 6 ran. NR Acajou III, Tammy's Friend. 7l, 30l. J Needham. Tote £11.50, £2.80, £1.50. DF £39.50. CSF £31.86. Tricast £53.52. Opal's Tenspot (12-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in pound.

3.35 (2m 1f hdle) 1. First Century (C Burrows, 3-1), 2. Kasayid (5-2 jt-fav), 3. Just One Canaletto (5-2 jt-fav). 9 ran. NR: Bold Acre, Emallen, Rumpus, Spring Sunrise. 3l, 30l. M Pipe. Tote £3.10, £1.80, £1.10, £1.60. DF £8.20. CSF £11.30. Tricast £20.03.

Placepot: £121.30. Quadpot: £29.70 (part won; pool of £30.15 carried forward to Kempton today).

Huntingdon

Going: good to soft

12.30 (2m 110yd ch) 1. Easby Mandrina (P McLoughlin, 9-1). 2. Dear Do (11-2). 3. Shaarid (6-5 fav). 6 ran. Nk, ¾l. S Kettlewell. Tote £11.70, £2.80, £4.20. DF £61.90. CSF. £50.92.

1.00 (3m 2f hdle) 1. Prince Of Salerno (J R Kavanagh, 5-1). 2. Pettaugh (33-1). 3. Hurricane Hanks (11-2). Cuchullains Gold 6-4 fav. 9 ran. 6l, 2½l. N Gaselee. Tote £5.00; £1.40, £7.60, £1.80. DF £321.70. CSF £114.93.

1.30 (3m ch) 1. Postman's Path (J R Kavanagh, 9-2), 2. Acajou III (11-4), 3. Real Progress (9-4 fav) 9 ran. NR. Sandmoor Prince. 5l, 15l. T Forster. Tote. £6.20, £1.70, £2.20, £1.50. DF. £26.60. Trio £17.00. CSF £17.71. Tricast £33.45.

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. Katiniyd (S Wynne, 5-1). 2. Double Jeopardy (6-1). 3. Magic Junction (9-2). Marlino 11-4 fav. 16 ran. NR Thrower. 6l, 10l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote £7.30, £2.60, £3.50, £1.90. DF £39.20. CSF. £42.66.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. Ardcroney Chief (G Upton, 15-2). 2. Armala (3-1 jt-fav). 3. Charlton Yeoman (8-1). Bustinello 3-1 jt-fav (ro). 9 ran. 20l, 6l. D Gandolfo. Tote. £10.30, £2.70, £2.10, £4.90. DF £12.40. Trio £113.50 (part won, pool of £111.93 carried forward to 3.20 at Kempton today). CSF £30.72. Tricast: £172.31. After a stewards' inquiry, Bobby Socks and Bustinello were disqualified for failing to jump the first fence in the back straight.

3.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1. Straight Laced (I Lawrence, 12-1). 2. Time For A Flutter (12-1). 3. Gilpa Valu (16-1). Prime Of Life 5-4 fav. 13 ran. NR: Decent Force, Kindle's Delight, Lucky Blue. 7l, ¾l. P Clarke. Tote £15.40, £3.70, £2.50, £4.50. DF £116.20. Trio not won (pool of £124.79 carried forward to 3.20 at Kempton today). CSF £155.57. Tricast £2,156.74.

Placepot: £634.10. Quadpot: £44.60.

Market Rasen

Going: soft (good to soft in back straight)

12.55 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1. Doman (D Byrne, 12-1) 2. Northern Nation (14-1). 3. Birran (5-1). Far Out 4-1 fav. 13 ran. NR: Negd, Side Bar. Nk. 2l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote. £20.50, £4.30, £3.40, £2.40. DF £90.60. Trio £24.00. Trio. £24.00. CSF £154.20. Tricast £868.35.

1.25 (3m 1f ch) 1. Richardson (N Doughty, 5-1). 2. Chichell's Hurst (8-1). 3. Pennine Pride (11-4). Kilmintoyle 7-4 fav. 8 ran. NR Ali's Alibi, Cotstone Pear. 8l, 20l. Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: £3.40; £1.30, £2.10, £1.30. DF: £11.20. Trio: £11.60. CSF: £25.56. Tricast £67.32.

2.00 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1. Test Match (Diane Clay, 20-1); 2. Brambleberry (5-1). 3, Tristan's Comet (4-1). Cash Chase 9-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: White Willow. Sh hd, 3l. W Clay. Tote: £13.30; £3.20, £1.70, £1.50. DF £54.10. Trio £50.10. CSF: £112.41. Tricast £449.50.

2.30 (2m 4f ch) 1. Crank Shaft (D Byrne, 11-8 fav); 2. Sillars Stalker (5-2). 3. Local Flyer (14-1). 6 ran. NR: Master Boston, Rose's Orphan. 15l, dist. J Quinn. Tote £2.50, £1.90, £2.20. DF £4.40. CSF £6.06.

3.05 (4m 1f ch) 1. Pink Gin (D Bentley, 5-1), 2. Matt Reid (16-1). 3. Hablon Whin (7-1). Uranus Collonges 9-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Potty Bridge, Vicomte De Valmont. Nk, ½l. M Hammond. Tote £5.40, £1.50, £3.60, £2.10. DF £53.40. Trio £162.20 (part won pool of £114.25 carried forward to 3.20 at Kempton today). CSF £71.81. Tricast £520.28.

3.35 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1. Tulu (R Garritty, 11-10 fav). 2. High Mind (8-1). 3. I'm A Dreamer (3-1). 16 ran. NR: Kiltulla, Subsonic. 1½l, 13l. Mrs J Ramsden. Tote £2.40, £1.50, £2.60, £1.50. DF £14.30. CSF £13.37.

Placepot: £368.00. Quadpot: £103.60 (part won: pool of £56.04 carried forward to Kempton today).

Newton Abbot

Going: heavy

12.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Wizzy Lizzy (A McCabe, 6-1) 2. Irkutsk (4-7 fav) 3 Northern Starlight (7-1) 14 ran. Hd, 30l. D Elsworth. Tote £5.80, £1.40, £1.10, £1.90. DF £4.20. CSF. £10.50.

1.15 (2m 5f ch) 1. Benjamin Lancaster (Miss S Young, 12-1) 2. Mr Sunnyside (7-2), 3. Steeple Jack (11-10 fav) 5 ran. Dist, 20l. M Griffin. Tote £11.50, £3.10, £1.50. DF £21.50. CSF £49.22.

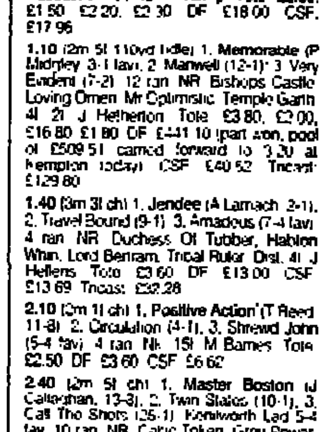
1.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Sparkling Cone (J Lower, 6-4), 2. Well Timed (4-1), 3. Padishah (11-10 fav) 5 ran. 9l, 8l. M Pipe. Tote £2.70; £1.50, £1.40. DF £5.40. CSF £7.87.

2.15 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1. Vicompt De Valmont (C Maude, 9-4 jt-fav), 2. Nearly Splendid (7-1), 3. Tammy's Friend (3-1). Cache Fleur 9-4 jt-fav (ur) 5 ran. NR Kalanski, Rocktor. 15l, sh hd. P Nicholls. Tote £3.20, £1.90, £2.20. DF £13.00. CSF £16.16.

2.45 (3m 110yd ch) 1. James The First (C Maude, 4-1) 2. Eide Reg (10-11 fav). 3. Miramac (6-1). 5 ran. NR Northern Saddler. 1½l, dist. P Nicholls. Tote £3.80, £1.80, £1.60. DF £4.20. CSF £8.70.

3.15 (2m 6f hdle) 1. Pennymoor Prince (R Darke, 4-1), 2. Spirit Level (25-1), 3. Washington Heights (13-2). Gime A Buzz 6-4 fav (pu). 9 ran. Dist, 3½l. R Frost. Tote £6.50, £1.70, £3.90, £2.10. DF £70.50. Trio £75.30. CSF £65.50. Tricast £616.66.

Placepot: £196.40. Quadpot: £58.70.



Richards: Wetherby double

Sedgefield

Going: good

12.40 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1. D'Arbley Street (S McDougall, 13-8 fav); 2. South Westerly (10-1). 3. Establish (9-2). 10 ran. NR: Denticulata, Gerrymander, Grog, Pariah, Ruecastle. 10l, hd. W Kemp. Tote £2.60, £1.50, £2.20, £2.30. DF £18.00. CSF. £17.96.

1.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1. Memorable (P Midgley, 3-1 fav), 2. Manwell (12-1) 3. Very Evident (7-2). 12 ran. NR: Bishops Castle, Loving Omen, Mr Optimistic, Temple Garth. 4l, 2l. J Hetherton. Tote £3.80, £2.00, £16.80, £1.80. DF £441.10 (part won, pool of £509.51 carried forward to 3.20 at Kempton today). CSF £40.52. Tricast £129.80.

1.40 (3m 3f ch) 1. Jendee (A Larnach, 2-1), 2. Travel Bound (9-1) 3. Amadeus (7-4 fav). 4 ran. NR: Duchess Of Tubber, Hablon Whin, Lord Bertram, Tribal Ruler. Dist, 4l. J Hellens. Tote £3.60. DF £13.00. CSF £13.69. Tricast: £32.28.

2.10 (2m 1f ch) 1. Positive Action (T Reed, 11-8). 2. Circulation (4-1), 3. Shrewd John (5-4 fav). 4 ran. Nk, 15l. M Barnes. Tote £2.50. DF £3.60. CSF £6.62.

2.40 (2m 5f ch) 1. Master Boston (J Callaghan, 13-8), 2. Twin States (10-1), 3. Call The Shots (25-1). Kenilworth Lad 5-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Celtic Token, Grey Power, Local Flyer, Mischievous Girl, Old Redwood, Sillars Stalker. 9l, 1½l. R Woodhouse. Tote £2.90; £1.40, £1.90, £10.50. DF £12.00. CSF £21.72.

3.10 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1. White Willow (Mr M H Naughton, 9-2). 2. Salinger (9-1). 3. Charlycia (4-1). Devilry 11-10 fav. 9 ran. NR. My Lindianne, Shahgram, Top Cees. 2l, 12l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote £4.90, £1.90, £2.30, £1.70. DF £59.30. Trio £45.80. CSF £47.96. Tricast £172.51.

Placepot: £357.00. Quadpot: £16.50 (0.1 winning tickets. Pool of £20.16 carried forward to Kempton today).

Wincanton

Going: good (good to soft in places)

12.40 (2m hdle) 1. Persistent Gunner (W McFarland, 33-1). 2. Mammy's Choice (16-1). 3. No Near Miss (4-1). Exclusive Edition 10-11 fav. 13 ran. NR: Mrs Barty. 3½l, 4l. R Hodges. Tote £23.40, £4.40, £2.40, £1.70. DF £108.00. CSF £448.75.

1.10 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1. Flyer's Nap (S Earle, 3-1 jt-fav); 2. Gamson Savannah (6-1), 3. Well Briefed (7-2). Run Up The Flag 3-1 jt-fav. 7 ran. NR: Givus A Buck. 6l, 15l. R Alner. Tote £3.70, £2.30, £2.30. DF £6.30. CSF £19.60. Tricast £58.72.

1.40 (2m 6f hdle) 1. Do Be Have (W Marston, 8-1) 2. Allegation (2-1 jt-fav), 3. Kabayil (9-1). Friendly Fellow 2-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. NR: Cara's Pride, Champagne Run, Chiaroscuro, Miracle Man, Precious Juno. 7l, nk. Mrs J Pitman. Tote £10.10, £2.20, £1.80, £2.70. DF £19.30. Trio £250.10 (part won, pool of £81.03 carried forward to 3.20 at Kempton today). CSF £25.54. Tricast £140.69.

2.10 (2m 5f ch) 1. Martha's Son (R Farrant, 8-11 fav), 2. Lusty Light (11-8), 3. Bang On Target (10-1). 3 ran. 2l, dist. T Forster. Tote £2.00. DF, £1.30. CSF, £1.99.

2.40 (3m ch) 1. Around The Horn (Peter Hobbs, 7-4 fav); 2. Sailors Luck (12-1); 3. Wickfield Lad (40-1). 8 ran. NR: Henley Regatta. 2l, 10l. J Gifford. Tote £2.90; £1.30, £2.10, £3.90. DF £12.10. Trio £153.60. CSF £21.33. Tricast £577.79.

3.10 (2m hdle) 1. Morstock (T Dascombe, 4-1 jt-fav), 2. Ferrufino (9-2), 3. Rumpus (25-1) 4, The Quaker (16-1). Storm Falcon 4-1 jt-fav. 17 ran. NR: Penhill Flame. 1½l, ¾l. R Hodges. Tote £4.60; £2.00, £4.80, £12.20. DF £30.50. Trio £268.60 (part won, pool of £230.77 carried forward to 3.20 at Kempton today). CSF £25.86. Tricast £415.19.

Placepot: £384.80. Quadpot: £9.70.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.25 (1m 100yd) 1. Komreyev Dancer (D Wright, Evens fav), 2. Forgotten Empress (7-2), 3. Hard Try (9-2) 7 ran. 3l, 3l. A Bailey. Tote £2.00, £1.20, £2.40. DF £3.50. CSF £5.02.

1.55 (7f) 1. Everset (D Wright, 4-5 fav), 2. Alpine Johnny (5-1), 3. Sense Of Priority (7-1). 11 ran. NR Northern Celadon. 3l, ½l. A Bailey. Tote £1.90, £1.50, £1.40, £2.00. DF £4.00. CSF: £6.84.

2.25 (6f) 1. Amdilly (R Cochrane, 8-1), 2. Protonic (7-1); 3. Heathyards Lady (10-1). Little Ibnr 7-4 fav. 12 ran. NR: Arc Lamp. 3l, hd. B Meehan. Tote £12.30; £3.40, £2.00, £2.90. DF: £57.90. Trio £217.50 (part won, pool of £156.24 carried forward to 2.55 at Wolverhampton today). CSF £65.12. Tricast £537.69.

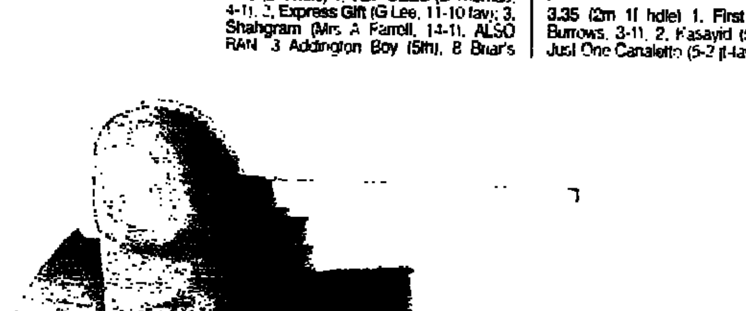
2.55 (6f) 1. Master Millfield (S Sanders, 7-4 fav); 2, Crystal Loop (3-1) 3. Dark Shot (5-2). 7 ran. 1½l, 1¾l. C Hill. Tote £4.00, £2.00, £2.50. DF £12.70. CSF £8.07.

3.25 (2m 46yd) 1. Mrs Jawleyford (M Baird, 11-2), 2. Tremendisto (8-1), 3. Sassiver (16-1). Well And Truly 7-2 fav. 12 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. C Smith. Tote £7.80; £2.00, £3.00, £4.90. DF £126.50. Trio £319.50 (part won, pool of £180.00 carried forward to 2.55 at Wolverhampton today). CSF: £52.18. Tricast £640.39.

3.55 (5f) 1. Whittingham Girl (G Carter, 5-1), 2. David James' Girl (7-2); 3. Lawnswood Lady (14-1). Lady Pui 7-4 fav. 11 ran. 1¾l, ½l. J Berry. Tote £9.50; £2.00, £2.50, £7.20. DF £24.60. CSF £27.93.

4.25 (1m 1f 79yd) 1. Mam'zelle Angot (A Clark, 8-1) 2. Waldo (5-2 fav); 3. Conspicuous (8-2). 10 ran. NR: Backstabber, Nobleby. Hd, sh hd. J Eyre. Tote £11.40, £1.90, £1.70, £1.40. DF £27.40. CSF £33.48. Tricast £104.89.

Placepot: £579.20. Quadpot: not won (pool of £53.80 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).



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Last-fence error allows French hope Algan to steal Kempton glory

Barton Bank denied emphatic victory

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

ADRIAN MAGUIRE was in tears and inconsolable. The ruddy complexion of David Nicholson's face went a ghostly white. And yesterday's Kempton Park crowd was left so bewildered it could barely raise a collective round of applause as Algan, the 16-1 winner of the King George VI Tripleprint Chase, returned to the unsaddling enclosure.

Just as the Derby of 1986 will be remembered as the race Dancing Brave did not win, yesterday's contest will go down in steeplechasing annals as the glorious victory of Barton Bank that never was. Nicholson has described his horse as the best chaser in the land "on his day" and for so much of the three-mile race it appeared as though this was going to be *the* day.

Heading for the last of the 19 fences, the 100-30 favourite pulled six, eight and then ten lengths clear of his toiling rivals. The race was all but over and, given the unassailable lead, Maguire could have asked Barton Bank to fiddle the final obstacle. But that is not the style of the jockey nor the horse and Maguire requested one special leap safe in the knowledge that there had not been a semblance of the kind of mistake which has blighted the horse's career.

For once, the message failed to pass down the reins. Barton Bank barely took off and ploughed through the birch obstacle before attempting the equine version of a handstand on his front legs as the force of the blunder sent his backside high into the sky. Maguire tried to hang on and lunged for the horse's neck. Had he succeeded, Isaac Newton's theories would have required some hasty revision.

As Algan, a struggling fifth entering the home straight, was suddenly presented with the lead Maguire could only cling on to a stationary Barton Bank and curse his luck. In the end the winner had 2½ lengths to spare over Monsieur Le Cure with Second Schedual a close third.

The decision of Corals to prune Barton Bank from 14-1 to 5-1 clear favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup only serves to underline the superiority of Barton Bank within the chasing ranks. However, the kamikaze kink in his make-up is always going to present his owners and punters with a headache. He remains unbeaten in his completed starts over fences, but he has now failed to finish four times — including both outings this year.

Nicholson was involved in an ugly altercation with a press photographer who continued taking pictures as the champion trainer consoled his jockey. "Adrian was upset, I was upset, the owners are upset and the photographer was totally out of order," he fumed. When the dust settles, the champion trainer will no doubt accept the photographer was only doing his job.

Unfortunately, the last-fence fall is likely to deny François Doumen, the winning trainer, the credit he deserves for Algan's success. Having produced Nupsala to defeat the mighty Desert Orchid in 1987 before winning the race twice with The Fellow, he now boasts a remarkable record in the race, having won with every individual horse he has brought to the King George from his Chantilly headquarters.

The Marquesa de Moratalla, owner of both The Fellow and yesterday's six year-old winner, said: "I knew he was a good horse because he won a big hurdle race at Auteuil and you have to have a good turn of foot to win that."

Looking ahead to the Gold Cup, the most significant performance was that of Monsieur Le Cure, who had every chance half a mile from home. "He blew up four out and stayed on again up the straight. I think you will find he will improve a lot next time." John Edwards, his trainer, said.



Algan goes clear on the run-in to land a 16-1 success in the King George VI Chase at Kempton. Photograph: Julian Herbert

BIG-RACE RESULT

2.20 KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE (Grade I: £58,500: 3m)
ALGAN b h Le Pontet — Djaipour II (Marquesa de Moratalla) 6-11-10 P Chevalier (16-1) 1.
Monsieur Le Cure b g The Parson — Caramore Lady (H Brown) 8-11-10 N Williamson (6-1) 2.
Second Schedual b g Golden Love — Billeragh Girl (H McMahon) 9-11-10 R Dunwoody (20-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav Barton Bank (ur), 7-2 Bradbury Star (5th), The Fellow (pu), 13-2 Travado (f), 14 Young Hustler (4th), 25 Gale Again (pu). 9 ran. NR: Cogent. 2½l, hd, 4l, 4l. F Doumen in France. Tote: £23 10; £3.80, £1.20, £1.90 DF: £50 80. Trio: £204.20. CSF: £98.31.

Chevalier makes the most of fortuitous booking

By Julian Muscat

"Why pick me?" Those were the words of Philippe Chevalier after he had set eyes on Kempton's stiff fences for the first time yesterday morning. The French jockey had asked the question of François Doumen who trains Algan, the lesser-fancied of Doumen's two runners in the King George.

With all eyes focused firmly on The Fellow, twice a previous winner of this prestigious race, Chevalier, 28, was entitled to demand why he had been shipped from France for the mount on a relative outsider. Even though he had never before sat on Algan — much less ridden over British birch — Chevalier knew that his chance was remote. There would be other days for this raw but improving six-year-old.

As he recounted the victory tale, the extent of his ambitions were painfully obvious. He said he was surprised to have overtaken The Fellow, who laboured on the testing ground before beating a retreat some five fences from the finish. Having achieved that, Chevalier, the French champion jumps jockey in 1991, pressed on to find himself disputing second place approaching the last of 19 fences.

But, surely, he must already have settled for a place? An emphatic "Non." Chevalier, a veteran of more than 240 victories in France, could see Barton Bank "twisting in the air." He knew when he cleared the fence that he would "see Barton Bank having a big problem on the floor."

At 16-1, Algan's fortuitous defeat of the hapless Barton Bank was far from unexpected. A top-class hurdler at home, Algan was backed, at 33-1, to extend Doumen's extraordinary record in the King George. It was Doumen, himself a champion amateur rider over jumps, who stunned Desert Orchid's legion of supporters when Nupsala upset the grey in 1987. He has now won four of the last eight runnings of this race.

And for the Marquesa de Moratalla, who owns both Algan and The Fellow, this was a welcome tonic after the death of Ucello III, her pride and joy, at Auteuil last month. "It makes me sick to think about it because Ucello was the nicest, most beautiful horse. I'll never recover from it," she said. How she would love to have catered for Ucello in his retirement, as she has more than 20 horses at her home near Bayonne in south-west France.

When she is not playing bridge, the Marquesa enjoys engaging the bookmakers. To judge by the money for Algan a week ago, she might have congratulated herself for indulging both passions as she left Kempton last night. That 33-1 did not last long, and the Marquesa, whose The Fellow started at 7-2, might have reflected on the most deadly finesse she has ever contrived.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER
12.45 Mountain Ballet
1.15 Gales Cavalier
1.45 Amtrak Express
2.20 Flakey Dove
2.50 Crystal Spirit
3.20 Second Call

GOING: SOFT — SIS

12.45 BONUSPRINT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (C4)
(3-Y-O: £5,290: 2m 5f) (6 runners)
101 8 PRIDE OF MAY 32 (S) (R Lewis) R Hannon 11-0 ... G McCourt 98
102 423 CLIFTON SET 26 (BF) (G Palmer) M Channon 10-9 ... A Thornton 96
103 2 DYNAMIC DELUXE 14 (The Pub Racing Club) S Sherwood 10-9 ... J Osborne 96
104 52R LYING EYES 19 (S) (A Holbrook) W G M Turner 10-9 ... P Holley 60
105 2 SAILS LEGEND 28 (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 10-9 ... D Gallagher 97
106 2 MOUNTAIN BALLET 40 (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 10-4 ... M A Fitzgerald 99
BETTING: 5-4 Mountain Ballet, 5-2 Pride Of May, 3-1 Dynamic Deluxe, 6-1 Clifton Set, 25-1 Sails Legend, 33-1 Lying Eyes.
1993: WINGS COVE 11-0 E Murphy (13-8 fav) Lady Herries 9 ran

FORM FOCUS
PRIDE OF MAY 14l 3rd of 11 to Brave Tornado in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). CLIFTON SET 17½l 3rd of 10 to Memorable in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good). DYNAMIC DELUXE 2½l 2nd of 13 to Mediterraneo in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). LYING EYES beat Indian Temple 14l in 16-runner selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). SAILS LEGEND 2l 2nd of 12 to Golden Arrow in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft). MOUNTAIN BALLET 1¾l 2nd of 6 to Khatir in juvenile hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft).
Selection: MOUNTAIN BALLET

1.15 BONUSFILM NOVICES CHASE (C4)
(£10,016: 2m) (4 runners)
201 211P-11 GALES CAVALIER 45 (D,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-11-0 ... M Dwyer 94
202 /5020-P ILE DE SOO 24 (R Hawkins) R Rowe 8-11-0 ... D O'Sullivan —
203 /380-35 RAINBOW CASTLE 62 (Findon Cricket Racing Club) J Gifford 7-11-0 ... Peter Hobbs —
204 3-11112 SOCIETY GUEST 17 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Robinson Webster Ltd) A Turnell 8-11-0 ... L Harvey 99
BETTING: 4-7 Gales Cavalier, 7-4 Society Guest, 7-1 Rainbow Castle, 33-1 Ile De Soo.
1993: SAN LORENZO 5-11-0 N Williamson (3-1) K Bailey 4 ran

FORM FOCUS
GALES CAVALIER beat Rhossili Bay 6l in 7-runner novice chase at Nottingham (2m, soft). ILE DE SOO tailed off when pulled up before last in 9-runner novice handicap hurdle won by Inchcailloch at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). RAINBOW CASTLE 35l 5th of 13 to Solo Gent in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). SOCIETY GUEST 14l 2nd of 6 to Konvekta King in novice chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: GALES CAVALIER

1.45 TRIPLEPRINT HANDICAP CHASE (C4)
(£14,810: 2m 4f 110yd) (3 runners)
301 1111-61 NAKIR 10 (G,S) (J Lewis) S Christian 6-12-0 ... J Osborne 99
302 1FF3-11 AMTRAK EXPRESS 28 (F,G,S) (Amtrak Express) N Henderson 7-10-5 ... M A Fitzgerald 95
303 U3P-P33 BRANDESTON 27 (D,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 9-10-0 ... P Verling 75
Long handicap: Brandeston 8-10.
BETTING: 4-6 Nakir, 5-4 Amtrak Express, 20-1 Brandeston.
1993: RICHVILLE 7-11-0 N Williamson (2-1 fav) K Bailey 8 ran

FORM FOCUS
NAKIR beat Oh So Grumpy 3l in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good). AMTRAK EXPRESS beat Bibendum 10l in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good). BRANDESTON 9l 3rd to Rouyan in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f, good).
Selection: NAKIR

2.20 BONUSPRINT CHRISTMAS HURDLE (C4)
(Grade I: £31,440: 2m) (6 runners)
401 12-1113 ATOURS 23 (D,F,G,S) (Oh So Rosie Partnership) D Elsworth 6-11-7 ... — 89
402 111-422 JAZILAH 31 (CD,G,S) (S Aitken) R Akehurst 6-11-7 ... M A Fitzgerald 91
403 D5P2-35 LAND AFAR 17 (CD,G,S) (T Ford) J Webber 7-11-7 ... G McCourt 91
404 4-12213 ABSALOM'S LADY 17 (CD,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Ltd) D Elsworth 6-11-2 ... P Holley 93
405 3115-32 FLAKEY DOVE 17 (D,F,G,S) (J Price) R Price 8-11-2 ... M Dwyer 99
406 111113- MYSILV 264 (CD,G,S) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 4-11-2 ... J Osborne 79
BETTING: 9-4 Flakey Dove, 3-1 Absalom's Lady, 7-2 Atours, 4-1 Mysilv, 7-1 Jazilah, 10-1 Land Afar.
1993: MUSE 6-11-7 M Richards (3-1) D Elsworth 5 ran

FORM FOCUS
ATOURS 5l 3rd of 7 to Danoli in the grade I Hattons Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m 4f, yielding to soft). JAZILAH 1l 2nd of 4 to Large Action in the grade II Gerry Fielden Hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). LAND AFAR best effort last season when beating Highbrook neck in the 12-runner grade III William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). ABSALOM'S LADY best recent effort when beating Large Action short-head in 5-runner hurdle race at Kempton (2m, good), with LAND AFAR (5lb better off) 1¾l 3rd and JAZILAH (5lb better off) neck 4th. FLAKEY DOVE 2½l 2nd of 8 to Large Action in the grade II Bonusphoto Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft), with ABSALOM'S LADY (4lb worse off) neck 3rd and LAND AFAR (4lb worse off) 7¾l 5th. MYSILV beat effort last season when beating Moorish 3½l in the grade I Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good).
Selection: FLAKEY DOVE (nap)

2.50 BONUSPOST HANDICAP CHASE (C4)
(£7,059: 3m) (6 runners)
501 2322-10 CRYSTAL SPIRIT 17 (F,G,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 7-12-0 ... J Osborne 99
502 P2P-330 ANOTHER CORAL 18 (C,F,G,S) (M Deeley) D Nicholson 11-10-13 ... M A Fitzgerald 98
503 4-42422 BIBENDUM 26 (C,F,G,S) (R Waley-Cohen) R Waley-Cohen 8-10-9 ... Peter Hobbs 94
504 6P-2442 NATIVE PRIDE 17 (B,D,BF,F,G,S) (J S Racing) K Bailey 7-10-2 ... M Dwyer 98
505 123-1P1 YORKSHIRE GALE 24 (CD,G,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 8-10-0 ... R Farrant 95
506 654-063 CUDDY DALE 18 (CD,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 11-10-0 ... P Verling 85
Long handicap: Yorkshire Gale 9-12, Cuddy Dale 8-13.
BETTING: 2-1 Crystal Spirit, 5-2 Yorkshire Gale, 4-1 Native Pride, 9-2 Another Coral, 7-1 Bibendum, 16-1 Cuddy Dale.
1993: FIGHTING WORDS 7-11-13 D Murphy (5-1) J Gifford 5 ran

FORM FOCUS
CRYSTAL SPIRIT best recent effort when beating Bradbury Star 8l in 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). ANOTHER CORAL tailed off last of 7 to Whispering Steel in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). BIBENDUM 10l 2nd of 6 to Amtrak Express in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good). NATIVE PRIDE 4l 2nd of 5 to Uranus Collonges in handicap chase at Doncaster (3m 2f, good). YORKSHIRE GALE beat Spikey 7l in 3-runner chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good). CUDDY DALE 5¼l 3rd of 5 to Dont Tell The Wife in handicap chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good).
Selection: YORKSHIRE GALE

3.20 BONUSPHOTO HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,751: 2m 5f) (9 runners)
601 101-345 MEDITATOR 10 (CD,G,S) (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 10-12-0 ... S Curran (3) 98
602 2FF4-11 SECOND CALL 24 (F,S) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 5-11-1 ... R Farrant 95
603 4254/3P HASHAR 38 (C,F) (W Brown) D Elsworth 6-10-13 ... P Holley 93
604 11-8553 FOREST FEATHER 24 (D,G) (D Kool) C Weedon 8-10-12 ... Peter Hobbs 88
605 21-412 NICK THE BEAK 10 (D,BF,S) (Sir Nicholas Wilson) J Upson 5-10-5 ... J Osborne 99
606 00-1601 HAWAIIAN YOUTH 17 (B,S) (G Redford) R Rowe 8-10-4 ... G McCourt 96
607 113FPU FESTIVAL DREAMS 19 (F,G,S) (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 9-10-0 ... D Leahy (3) —
608 154-0 FOOLS ERRAND 26 (S) (Mrs D Russell) R Hannon 4-10-0 ... D Gallagher 86
609 0P020 HONEST DAVE 49 (D Newman) B Pearce 4-10-0 ... B Powell 57
Long handicap: Festival Dreams 9-11, Fools Errand 9-5, Honest Dave 6-6.
BETTING: 9-4 Second Call, 7-2 Hawaiian Youth, 4-1 Nick The Beak, 6-1 Meditator, 8-1 Forest Feather, 10-1 Fools Errand, 14-1 others.
1993: JEASSU 10-11-5 B Clifford (4-1) A Wilson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS
MEDITATOR 26¼l 5th of 8 to Hebridean in the grade I Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot (3m 1f 110yd, good). SECOND CALL beat Cache Fleur 3l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). HASHAR 3l 3rd behind dead-heaters Arabian Bold and Squire Silk at Kempton (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. FOREST FEATHER 13l 3rd of 4 to Cab On Target in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft), with MEDITATOR 15l last. NICK THE BEAK 2½l 2nd of 15 to Mr Pickpocket in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft). HAWAIIAN YOUTH beat Shared Gold in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). FOOLS ERRAND 15l 7th of 11 to Southampton in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good).
Selection: NICK THE BEAK

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Channon	3	7	42.9	M Dwyer	5	9	55.6
K Bailey	11	41	26.8	D O'Sullivan	3	13	23.1
N Henderson	18	69	26.1	M A Fitzgerald	8	39	20.5
T Forster	3	14	21.4	Peter Hobbs	8	39	20.5
D Nicholson	12	57	21.1	J Osborne	22	119	18.5
S Sherwood	4	20	20.0	G McCourt	11	61	18.0

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Jockeys fined

PAT VERLING and Pat McLoughlin were each fined £220 after missing a fence in the Christmas Tide Handicap Chase at Huntingdon yesterday. Verling, riding the leader Bustinello, and McLoughlin, tracking him on Bobby Socks, both by-passed the tenth fence where jockey Ross Campbell was being attended by medics after falling from Reggae Beat on the first circuit.

Master Oats to take honours

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

KEMPTON PARK
C4

12.45 With Pride Of May comprehensively beaten at Newbury last time, the way looks clear for **Mountain Ballet** to open her account. David Nicholson's juvenile made Khatir work hard for his Haydock victory.

1.15: Gales Cavalier, a point-to-point winner in Ireland, has impressed in two outings over British fences and is proven on soft ground. He is worth the vote ahead of Society Guest.

1.45: Amtrak Express can jump with rare zest, but his confidence is far from certain to emerge unscathed from a tussle with **Nakir**. Amtrak Express's supporters are entitled to fancy the seven-year-old in receipt of 23lb, but Nakir's fluent jumping should serve him well.

2.20: Flakey Dove had Absalom's Lady and Land Afar behind her when chasing home Large Action last time and enjoys a 4lb pull today. However, this sharp two miles renders her vulnerable to a speedier animal. Atours, a stablemate of Absalom's Lady, has ability but made numerous mistakes in Ireland last time. **Mysilv** makes more appeal. She was not herself when beaten on her last start in April and is twice a course and distance winner.

2.50: Yorkshire Gale goes well on this course and has a fine chance here. Crystal Spirit will do well to defy top weight, while Bibendum has yet to win at this trip.

CHEPSTOW
BBC2

1.00: Anzum battled on gamely to beat Brave Tornado at Lingfield 17 days ago. With Adrian Maguire reunited with David Nicholson's best three-year-old, there is no obvious reason why the form should be reversed. Veryvel won in a decent time when narrowly beating Plunder Bay.

1.30: Man Of Mystery is a tentative suggestion having run decently at Hereford. Track and going should suit. Country Lad should appreciate this drop in class after struggling behind Dublin Flyer at Cheltenham.

2.05: Martin Pipe has three runners in his attempt to win this race for the sixth time in the past seven years. Chatam looks to have plenty of weight and Riverside Boy was tailed off last time, but Lord Relic has sound prospects. He was staying on well behind One Man in the Hennessy and Raymylette in the Betterware Cup so today's stamina test should suit. However, I prefer **Master Oats**, who impressed when winning here on his seasonal debut. He can again account for Party Politics. Earth Summit should relish these conditions and is the main threat.

2.35: Keano can go well on his chasing debut. Philip Hobbs's Irish recruit made most to win at Bangor before running creditably behind Billygoat Gruff at Cheltenham. Of those with fencing experience, A N C Express is preferred to Newton Point.

Richard Evans
Julian Muscat

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER
12.25 Challenger Du Luc
1.00 Anzum
1.30 All For Luck
2.05 EARTH SUMMIT (nap)
2.35 Desperate
3.10 Prerogative
3.45 Duke's Mount

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
12.25 CHALLENGER DU LUC.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD
101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88
Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: SOFT — SIS

12.25 MISTLETOE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,793: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)
1 55421 CHALLENGER DU LUC 11 (B,D,S) (J & J Securities Ltd) M Pipe 4-11-5 ... R Dunwoody 99
2 041 QUELQUE CHOSE 14 (D,S) (Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 4-11-5 ... B Powell 75
3 0083-P6 ABAVARD 15 (S) (B King) A Fore 5-11-0 ... S McNeill —
4 3P GREVILLE AGAIN 40 (BF) (Mrs H Clarke) D Nicholson 5-11-0 ... W Marston 78
5 3646 JUST MARMALADE 24 (J Tudor) P Hobbs 5-11-0 ... M Hourigan 84
6 302004/ KENNETT SQUARE 585 (Lady E Mays-Smith) Lady E Mays-Smith 5-11-0 ... J A McCarthy —
7 0820 PISTOL RIVER 11 (P Green) N Walker 4-11-0 ... A Dobbin 84
8 0601- PLEASURE SHARED 251 (S) (M St Quinton) K Bailey 6-11-0 ... N Williamson —
9 1003- RED PARADE 282 (S) (R Peake) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-11-0 ... R Greene —
10 0364-UP BOURNEL 32 (N Bowden) C Barwell 6-10-9 ... Mr Richard White (7) —
11 55/30/ GALA'S PRIDE 990 (A Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-9 ... D Bridgwater —
12 035323/ RICH DESIRE 584 (F) (Miss M Kearns) F Murphy 5-10-9 ... B Murphy (5) —
BETTING: 9-4 Challenger Du Luc, 3-1 Quelque Chose, 6-1 Pleasure Shared, 8-1 Pistol River, 10-1 Greville Again, 12-1 Rich Desire, 14-1 others.
1993: BAY MISCHIEF 4-11-0 C Llewellyn (9-4 fav) N Twiston-Davies 14 ran

1.00 FINALE JUNIOR HURDLE (BBC2)
(Grade I: 3-Y-O: £15,133: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)
1 2 AMBER VALLEY 19 (Berkshire Components) D Williams 11-0 ... A P McCoy 83
2 1111 ANZUM 17 (D,G,S) (Old Foresters Partnership) D Nicholson 11-0 ... W Marston 99
3 12 BRAVE TORNADO 17 (D,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 11-0 ... B Clifford 98
4 11213 KHATIR 18 (B,D,F,G,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 11-0 ... R Dunwoody 89
5 21134 NASHVILLE STAR 25 (V,D,F,G) (R Mathew) R Mathew 11-0 ... N Williamson 78
6 13F2 ROMANCER 18 (F) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 11-0 ... D Bridgwater 92
7 61 VERYVEL 19 (D,S) (D Lewis) R Simpson 11-0 ... J R Kavanagh 82
BETTING: 5-4 Anzum, 4-1 Brave Tornado, 9-2 Romancer, 5-1 Khatir, 12-1 Amber Valley, 14-1 Nashville Star, 16-1 Veryvel.
1993: MYSILV 10-9 A Maguire (11-10 fav) D Nicholson 12 ran

FORM FOCUS
AMBER VALLEY 3½l 2nd of 8 to River Junction in juvenile hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good). ANZUM beat BRAVE TORNADO ¾l in 7-runner grade II TJH Group Summit Junior Hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). BRAVE TORNADO beat Jaraab 4l in an 11-runner juvenile hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. KHATIR beat Mountain Ballet 1¾l in a 6-runner juvenile hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start. NASHVILLE STAR 13½l 3rd of 6 to Silver Wedge in a juvenile hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. ROMANCER 2l 2nd of 11 to Silver Wedge in a juvenile hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft), with KHATIR (4lb better off) 7l 3rd. VERYVEL beat Plunder Bay ¾l in a 9-runner juvenile hurdle at Haydock (2m, heavy).
Selection: ANZUM

1.30 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HANDICAP CHASE (BBC2)
(£3,474: 2m 3f 110yd) (6 runners)
1 6P3-14U COUNTRY LAD 17 (C,G,S) (S Douch) Mrs S Williams 6-11-10 ... S McNeill 89
2 11110-F ALL FOR LUCK 42 (BF,G,S) (B Craig) M Pipe 9-11-5 ... R Dunwoody 99
3 4-43403 MAN OF MYSTERY 7 (D,G,S) (PCJF) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-9 ... D Bridgwater 94
4 5-22134 MUTUAL TRUST 24 (F,G,S) (M Bowling) G Richards 10-10-4 ... A Dobbin 97
5 240-3FU DAN DE LYON 73 (S) (A Staple) C Popham 6-10-0 ... J F Titley 82
6 31340-5 BARELY BLACK 39 (S) (J Cantrill) N Babbage 6-10-0 ... W Humphreys 77
Long handicap: Dan De Lyon 9-1, Barely Black 8-11
BETTING: 2-1 All For Luck, 11-4 Country Lad, 7-2 Man Of Mystery, 4-1 Mutual Trust, 14-1 Dan De Lyon, 25-1 Barely Black.
1993: CAMELOT KNIGHT 7-10-9 C Llewellyn (11-8) N Twiston-Davies 4 ran

FORM FOCUS
COUNTRY LAD best effort beat Mister Oddy 5l in 8-runner handicap chase here (2m 110yd, soft). ALL FOR LUCK best effort beat Kettl distance in 10-runner amateur riders' novices' handicap chase at Aintree (2m 4f, heavy) last season. MAN OF MYSTERY 2¼l 3rd of 4 to Petty Bridge in handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). MUTUAL TRUST best effort beat Just Frankie 8l in 8-runner Carlisle handicap chase (2m, good). DAN DE LYON best effort 8½l 3rd of 8 to Tinas Lad in handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good). BARELY BLACK 18¾l 5th of 7 to Mr Entertainer in Leicester handicap chase (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: ALL FOR LUCK

2.05 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL (BBC2)
(Grade III: handicap chase: £28,207: 3m 5f 110yd) (12 runners)
1 0/240-61 CHATAM 20 (F,G,S) (A Nolan) M Pipe 10-11-10 (4ex) ... M Perrett 89
2 30R-22F RUN FOR FREE 34 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Freethy) M Pipe 10-11-7 ... NON-RUNNER —
3 211F1-1 MASTER OATS 24 (C,G,S) (P Matthews) K Bailey 8-11-5 (4ex) ... N Williamson 92
4 PP10/1-2 PARTY POLITICS 24 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs D Thompson) N Gaselee 10-11-4 ... W Marston 91
5 0/1F-F23 LORD RELIC 10 (BF,S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 8-10-12 ... R Dunwoody 99
6 PPR4-26 RIVERSIDE BOY 24 (CD,BF,G,S) (Bisgrove Partnership) M Pipe 11-10-11 ... M Richards 92
7 P01-51F EARTH SUMMIT 34 (B,C,BF,G,S) (Summit Partners) N T-Davies 6-10-11 ... D Bridgwater 97
8 U/248-24 DAKYNS BOY 38 (G,S) (A Parker) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-5 ... T Jenks (3) 89
9 P4P-3U0 CAPABILITY BROWN 18 (C,F,G,S) (D Lewis) R Price 7-10-5 ... J R Kavanagh 90
10 111P-1U TARTAN TYRANT 19 (BF,G,S) (Mackinnon Mills) G Richards 8-10-0 ... A Dobbin 94
11 16-1311 GOLD CAP 25 (C,D,G,S) (G Meadows) P Hobbs 9-10-0 ... C Maude 84
12 11-2312 WARNER FOR WINNERS 24 (F,G,S) (T Warner Sports) P Hobbs 8-10-0 ... B Tomney (5) 81
Long handicap: Gold Cap 9-8, Warner For Winners 9-1.
BETTING: 11-4 Master Oats, 3-1 Earth Summit, 6-1 Tartan Tyrant, 7-1 Lord Relic, 8-1 Party Politics, 12-1 Dakyns Boy, 20-1 Chatam, Gold Cap, 25-1 Riverside Boy, 33-1 Capability Brown, Warner For Winners.
1993: RIVERSIDE BOY 10-10-0 R Dunwoody (6-4 fav) M Pipe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS
CHATAM beat Black Humour distance in a 3-runner chase at Haydock (3m, soft). MASTER OATS beat PARTY POLITICS (4lb better off) 4l in the 5-runner grade II Rehearsal Limited Handicap Chase here (3m, soft). LORD RELIC 19¼l 3rd of 8 to Raymylette in a handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). Previously 2l 2nd of 16 to One Man in the grade III Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with CHATAM (4lb better off) 14l 5th and CAPABILITY BROWN (5lb better off) in touch when fell 3 out. EARTH SUMMIT beat Mariomack 10l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) on penultimate start. TARTAN TYRANT beat Diamond Fort 9l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m 4f 110yd, good to soft). GOLD CAP beat Arthur's Minstrel head in a 5-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good). Previously beat DAKYNS BOY (6lb better off) 1½l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 3f 110yd, good to soft).
WARNER FOR WINNERS 1¼l 2nd of 8 to Judges Fancy in a handicap chase here (3m 2f 110yd, soft) with RIVERSIDE BOY (13lb better off) tailed off 6th.
Selection: MASTER OATS

2.35 FESTIVE SPIRIT NOVICES CHASE (BBC2)
(£3,782: 3m) (7 runners)
1 246331 NEWTON POINT 25 (D,F,G,S) (PPS Racing Partnership) T George 5-11-10 ... C Maude 80
2 510-252 A N C EXPRESS 15 (S) (M O'Connor) J King 6-11-5 ... T Jenks (3) 99
3 1F/5-60 DERRING BUD 6 (G,S) (Lady S Brooke) Lady S Brooke 10-11-5 ... Mr R Johnson (7) 72
4 1/1P-423 DESPERATE 15 (B,S) (Desperate Partnership) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5 ... D Bridgwater 97
5 6200/5F RUSTIC SUNSET 12 (R Ogden) A Turnell 8-11-5 ... S McNeill —
6 0-515 KEANO 17 (S) (Midavon Partnership) P Hobbs 5-11-4 ... N Williamson —
7 00-1114 DOUALAGO 20 (B,F,G,S) (Martin Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 4-10-11 ... R Dunwoody 97
BETTING: 9-4 Doualago, 3-1 A N C Express, 7-2 Desperate, 5-1 Newton Point, 8-1 Keano, 12-1 Rustic Sunset, 16-1 Derring Bud.
1993: EARTH SUMMIT 5-11-9 C Llewellyn (2-1 fav) N Twiston-Davies 7 ran

FORM FOCUS
NEWTON POINT beat Wholestone 8l in a 3-runner novice chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good). A N C EXPRESS 2½l 2nd of 9 to Corner Boy in a novice chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good), with DESPERATE 2½l 3rd. DERRING BUD best effort 19l 5th of 13 to Richard Hunt in a novices' hunter chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good) last season. DESPERATE 10l 2nd of 9 to Jurassic Classic in a novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. KEANO 33½l 5th of 9 to Billygoat Gruff in the grade II Bristol Novice Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to soft). DOUALAGO beat Cragg Boreen 13l in a 5-runner novices' handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: A N C EXPRESS

3.10 YULETIDE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,010: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)
1 15-13FF OLD BRIDGE 24 (C,G,S) (K Mackenzie) A Turnell 6-11-13 ... D Fortt 90
2 211P15- PREROGATIVE 242 (V,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 4-11-10 ... T Dascombe (4) 93
3 4102-02 MARROS MILL 17 (D,S) (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 4-11-9 ... R Massey 98
4 02U12-0 LEAVENWORTH 10 (G,S) (A Collins) Mrs J Retter 10-11-5 ... S O'Donnell (4) 93
5 155/223- MYHAMET 297 (G,S) (Superset Racing) P Hobbs 7-11-4 ... G Tormey 86
6 025-141 DAMIER BLANC 15 (D,S) (T Painting) M Pipe 5-10-13 ... D Burrows (7) 94
7 2/UP-654 LANDED GENTRY 20 (S) (K Bell & Son Ltd) C Broad 5-10-8 ... T Jenks 99
8 2135-03 WARFIELD 10 (S) (C Lewis) P Nicholls 7-10-3 ... Guy Lewis 91
9 6050-06 SYLVIA BEACH 10 (CD,F,S) (G Greenwood) P Murphy 8-10-1 ... D Bohan (4) 83
10 356-034 FOX CHAPEL 43 (D,BF,G,S) (B Hine) R Juckes 7-10-1 ... N Juckes (4) 98
11 3/1-2 SHARP PERFORMER 24 (BF,G) (Mrs S Ellen) K Bailey 5-10-0 ... F Leahy 90
12 131-5P2 DEVIOSITY 15 (F,G) (Mrs S Hooper) N Ayliffe 7-10-0 ... A P McCoy 93
Long handicap: Sharp Performer 9-12, Deviosity 9-12.
BETTING: 3-1 Damier Blanc, 9-2 Warfield, 5-1 Deviosity, 7-1 Fox Chapel, 8-1 Marros Mill, Myhamet, 10-1 Landed Gentry, 12-1 others.
1993: SYLVIA BEACH 7-10-0 D Matthews (12-1) P Murphy 12 ran

3.45 GRUNWICK CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Grade II: £6,430: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)
1 11 DUKE'S MOUNT 22 (F,S) (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 4-11-7 ... R Massey (5) —
2 2-12 BEN CRUACHAN 27 (BF,G) (Caledonian Racing) J Jefferson 4-11-4 ... N Williamson —
3 25-1 BIG STRAND 42 (S) (E Jones) M Pipe 5-11-4 ... R Dunwoody —
4 01- BLUE DOCTOR 274 (S) (Mrs E Eagles) R Hedges 4-11-4 ... J Frost —
5 31-6 DISTANT ECHO 50 (BF,F) (M Fordham) D Arbuthnot 4-11-4 ... S McNeill —
6 1 WISLEY WONDER 27 (G) (Wisley Golf Partners) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-4 ... D Bridgwater —
7 04 KARICLEIGH LAD 10 (E Eveleigh) Mrs J Retter 5-11-0 ... S Burrough —
BETTING: 5-4 Duke's Mount, 7-2 Ben Cruachan, 4-1 Big Strand, 5-1 Blue Doctor, 8-1 Wisley Wonder, 16-1 Distant Echo, 25-1 Karicleigh Lad.
1993: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	10	32	31.3	R Dunwoody	25	98	25.5
M Pipe	57	218	26.1	N Williamson	4	24	16.7
Mrs J Retter	6	28	21.7	M Richards	3	18	16.7
N Twiston-Davies	16	75	21.3	J R Kavanagh	3	20	15.0
C Broad	4	21	19.0	D Bridgwater	6	43	14.0
P Hobbs	13	72	18.1	B Powell	7	68	10.3

Cogent stands alone

CHELTENHAM Gold Cup clues were hard to find at Wetherby yesterday as One Man and Jodami fell in the Rowland Meyrick Chase, leaving Cogent to come home alone. One Man, the 6-4 on favourite, unseated Tony Dobbin five out when still travelling well, then two fences later Jodami had moved upsides Cogent when falling after jumping the obstacle.

Tuigamala curtails St Helens revival

St Helens	25
Wigan	32

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT WAS the intoxicating whiff of victory that did it for St Helens. An epic Stones Bitter rugby league championship encounter seemed to be theirs, only for Va'aiga Tuigamala to snatch away the spoils in astonishing fashion at Knowsley Road yesterday.

Perhaps only a tranquiliser dart could have prevented the former All Black charging through three tackles from 30 yards like a bull elephant. St Helens had led for four minutes, after appearing beaten when they trailed 20-2 at the interval. When Goulding squeezed them ahead with a dropped goal and Sullivan finished a marvellous fourth try immediately afterwards, the home side had merely to keep their heads.

It proved, despairingly, beyond them, as Wigan, despite being reduced to 12 players (at one stage it was 11 in the second half), brilliantly punished handling errors by Prescott and Joynt in their own half. If Tuigamala was the executioner, then Offiah was the torturer, with a further score just before the end.

Both tries exposed the vulnerability of the St Helens defence, which had been exploited fully in the first half. There was more than a whiff of cordite about a game in which there were five sin-binnings and a sending-off that appeared, ironically, to follow the most innocuous offence of the lot.

With the dismissal of Paul, for a challenge on Prescott off the ball that looked more like a pat on the head than a deliberate blow, came St Helens's opportunity. It was not before Tuigamala had driven over for his first try, a further example of the marking and tackling deficiences that Edwards and Betts had earlier taken advantage of.

These problems, temporarily at least, were smoothed over. Whatever Eric Hughes, the normally placid St Helens coach, said at half-time, worked. The 18-point deficit was quickly whittled away as resources were put into an attack that started to hum to the tune of Goulding and the quicksilver Martyn at halfback.

Within 40 seconds of the restart, Joynt had broken the Wigan line and Lyon had moved inside for the score. It was the perfect rejoinder and, a minute later, Goulding masterminded another. The scrum half drew the visitors' cover and Martyn received a delayed pass, running into acres of space.

In the final quarter, St Helens drew level, then ahead. Goulding might have been distracted by missing a straightforward penalty, but not a bit of it. He worked a clever move with Cooper to release Martyn for his second touchdown, his conversion made it 20-20 on the hour, and then came the dropped goal and Sullivan's apparent *coup de grâce*. Wide on the left, it was a difficult conversion for Goulding but, had he kicked it, Wigan would have needed to score at least twice.

Such a narrow chink of light was all that they needed. The concentration of the home side wavered and Tuigamala and Offiah were there to inflict the punishment that has, realistically, put paid to St Helens's title ambitions.

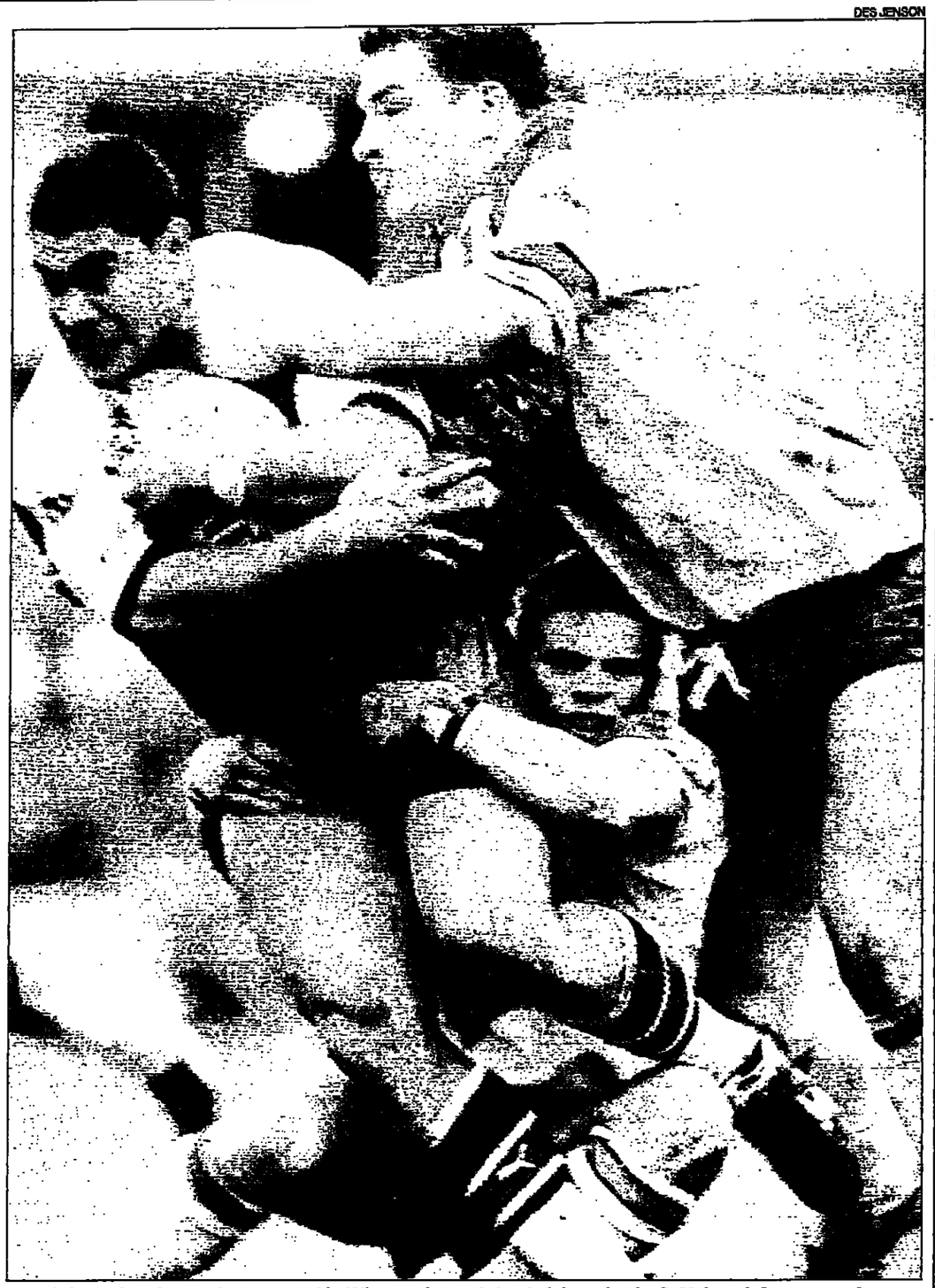
Tuigamala departed the scene of his triumph, a year after the announcement of his signing, on a stretcher. A collision at the end brought him crashing to earth with knee ligament damage. He could reflect, though, on an intervention that has kept Wigan firmly on course for a sixth successive title.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Martyn (2), Lyon, Sullivan. Goals: Goulding (4). Dropped goal: Goulding Wigan: Tries: Tuigamala (2), Edwards, Betts, Offiah Goals: Botica (6)
ST HELENS: S Prescott, J Griffiths, S Gobbs, D Lyon (sub: P Ververs, 67min), A Sullivan, T Martyn, B Goulding; J Neill, B Dwyer, A Foggerty, C Joynt, A Perelini (sub: I Pickavance, 35); S Cooper.
WIGAN: H Paul; J Robinson (sub: S Haughton, 56), V Tuigamala, G Connolly, M Offiah, F Botica, S Edwards, K Skerrett, M Hall, N Cowie (sub: T O'Connor, 56), D Betts, M Cassidy, A Farrell
Referee: R Smith.

☐ Keighley Cougars opened up a three-point gap at the top of the second division as second-placed Batley lost in the league for the first time since November 6 yesterday. Keighley overcame a 12-6 deficit at half-time to defeat their fellow promotion-chasers, Hull Kingston Rovers, 24-12 in front of a 4,722 crowd at Cougar Park, with second-half tries from Pinkney, Robinson and Eyres.

Dewsbury halted Batley's promotion drive with a 16-0 victory in the derby at New Crown Flatt. Leading 6-0 at half-time, thanks to a try from Longo, Dewsbury clinched victory with second-half tries from Ian Bates and Shane Williams. Leigh made it three wins in a row under their new coach, Ian Lucas, with a 24-10 success over London Broncos.

DES JENSON



Tuigamala, who was instrumental in Wigan's victory, is hauled down by the St Helens defence yesterday

Yorkshire pack chase pace-setter

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE PACK of teams pursuing Wigan at the top of the Stones Bitter championship has a distinct Yorkshire look about it after yesterday's matches, with Leeds, Bradford Northern, Halifax and Castleford on the heels of the leaders.

However, Leeds encountered spirited resistance from Hull before winning for the first time in eight years at The Boulevard.

Leeds appeared to be racing towards their ninth successive victory when two first-half tries from Ellery Hanley — taking his tally for the season to 18 — helped put them 18-2 ahead. But Hull fought back bravely when Dean Busby and Gary Nolan both scored tries in the space of nine minutes and it took a late try from Francis Cummins to give them a 24-20 victory.

Halifax had to settle for a 16-16 draw with Bradford when Deryck Fox landed a superb goal to tie the scores at Thrum Hall after the Great Britain, centre Paul Newlove, scored his second try of the match — his sixteenth of the season — in the 57th minute.

John Schuster, the Halifax centre, who is the Stones Bitter championship leading points-scorer, kicked four goals to take his season's tally to 206.

Castleford, who are the outside contenders for the championship, beat their neighbours, Featherstone, 32-6 to extend their unbeaten run to eight matches. Rovers failed to recover from the first half sending off of Gary H Price for stamping on the Castleford scrum half, Tony Smith.

Simon Middleton, the centre, picked up two of Castleford's tries and their full back, Graham Steadman, secured a 75-yard effort, before going off the field with a neck injury.

The Great Britain player, Jonathan Davies, whose skills have been sorely missed, made a winning return from injury as a late try by Francis Maloney, their stand-off half, helped Warrington to an 11-2 victory at Widnes.

Workington lifted themselves off the foot of the table following Hull's defeat, with a 28-12 win over Wakefield.

Oldham brought their supporters some cheer by winning at the Willows for the second successive season. They triumphed 16-12 and Sheffield Eagles defeated Doncaster 30-22 in the first-ever south Yorkshire first division derby.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Dolphins victory puts Shula ahead

DON SHULA, of the Miami Dolphins, already the most successful coach in National Football League history, broke the record for the most regular-season victories on Sunday with a 27-20 victory over the Detroit Lions. The win was Shula's 319th in the regular season, surpassing the legendary Chicago Bears coach, George Halas. Shula coached the team from a motorised scooter on the sidelines because he is recuperating from an Achilles tendon injury.

Last season, Shula, 64, moved past Halas for the most wins by an NFL coach overall. On November 14, 1993, the Dolphins defeated Philadelphia 19-14, giving Shula his 325th win and moving him past Halas into the top spot on the all-time list. Shula has taken six teams to the Super Bowl, winning the championship after the 1972 and 1973 seasons. In 1972, the Dolphins went 14-0 in the regular season and won all their play-off games, defeating Washington in Super Bowl VII to complete the only perfect season in NFL history.

Boxer on danger list

BOXING: Danny Nunez, 27, of the Dominican Republic, was in a critical condition in a Bangkok hospital yesterday after being knocked out in a World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight title bout. Nunez was rushed to Bangkok late on Sunday after being beaten by the Thai champion, Saen Sor Ploenchit, in the eleventh round of their 12-round contest in the town of Rayong.

"At the moment we are satisfied with his response," a hospital spokesman said. "But I cannot rule out, if things take a turn for the worse, that we might have to perform brain surgery."

Wessels stands firm

CRICKET: Kepler Wessels, who announced his retirement from international cricket last week, inspired Eastern Province to a good start in a rain-shortened opening day of their four-day match against the Sri Lankans in Port Elizabeth yesterday. The former South Africa captain hit an unbeaten 48 as Eastern Province reached 93 for one by lunch before the rest of the day was washed out by a persistent drizzle. Eastern Province, sent in to bat, suffered an early setback when Philip Amm was bowled by Chaminda Vaas, a left-arm seam bowler, with only seven runs on the board.

Hammond in Belgium

CYCLING: Roger Hammond, the British cyclo-cross champion, heads a six-man national team that will ride in the fourth round of the World Cup competition in Belgium tomorrow and today misses the opportunity to win the annual Macclesfield race for the third successive year. Hammond's team-mates in Belgium will be Steve Douce, a professional, and Peter Stevenson, Richard Thackray, Stuart Blunt and Jonathan Watson, all amateurs. Hammond defends his national title at Sutton Park, Birmingham, on January 8.

Season's fate in balance

ICE HOCKEY: The fate of the 1994-95 National League (NHL) season, delayed because of a deadlock in pay negotiations, could be decided this week. No date for cancelling the season has been set although the NHL commissioner, Gary Bettman, has the authority to do so if it becomes impossible to play the full schedule by July 1. That would mean the season starting before January 15. Because owners say a two-week training camp is required, the lock-out would have to end this week, yet pay talks are not scheduled to start until today at the earliest.

Level pegging at Oban

SHINTY: Oban Celtic's Boxing Day match at Mossfield Park ended for the second consecutive year with the present side keeping their veterans select to a 2-2 draw. The game was played in heavy rain which had persisted overnight. The veterans adapted more quickly and Robert Duffy gave the "old boys" the lead, but Ally Nudds was quick to level. As conditions deteriorated, play became concentrated in the veteran's goalmouth and Sandy MacLeod put the present side in front. On a rare breakaway, the veterans were awarded a penalty, with which Campbell Clark equalised.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

RESULTS: Week 17: Saturday: Atlanta 10 Arizona 6, Indianapolis 10 Buffalo 9, NY Giants 15 Dallas 10; Green Bay 34 Tampa Bay 19; New England 13 Chicago 3, Cincinnati 33 Philadelphia 30, Cleveland 35 Seattle 9, Kansas City 19 LA Raiders 9, New Orleans 30 Denver 28, Houston 24 NY Jets 10; San Diego 37 Pittsburgh 34, Washington 24 LA Rams 21 Yesterday: Miami 27 Detroit 20

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

East division

	W	L	PF	PA
*Miami	10	6	389	327
†New England	10	6	351	312
Indianapolis	8	8	307	320
Buffalo	7	9	340	356
NY Jets	6	10	264	320

Central division

*Pittsburgh	12	4	316	234
†Cleveland	11	5	340	304
Cincinnati	3	13	276	406
Houston	2	14	226	352

West division

*San Diego	11	5	381	306
†Kansas City	9	7	319	298
LA Raiders	9	7	303	327
Denver	7	9	347	398
Seattle	6	10	287	323

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

East division

	W	L	PF	PA
*Dallas	12	4	414	248
NY Giants	9	7	279	305
Arizona	8	8	235	267
Philadelphia	7	9	308	308
Washington	3	13	320	412

Central division

†Minnesota	9	6	335	300
†Green Bay	9	7	382	287
†Detroit	9	7	357	342
†Chicago	9	7	271	307
Tampa Bay	6	10	251	351

West division

*San Francisco	13	2	491	275
New Orleans	7	9	348	407
Atlanta	7	9	313	389
LA Rams	4	12	286	365

*won division †won play-off place

☐ Does not include last night's game San Francisco at Minnesota

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Denver 105 Seattle 96, Chicago 107 New York 104 (OT).

CRICKET

DUBBO, Australia: One-day tour match: Zimbabweans 277-5 (A Flower 114, G W Flower 91) NSW Country XI 195-9. Zimbabweans won by 82 runs

DHAKA: SAARC tournament: Bangladesh 172-8, India 171 Bangladesh won by one run.

PORT ELIZABETH: Tour match: Eastern Province 93-1 (F C Wessels 48 not out) v Sri Lankans

CAPE TOWN: Tour match: Western Province 330-6 (H D Ackerman 118, J Kallis 53) v Pakistan.

CYCLING

TIME TRIAL RESULTS: New Forest (10 miles): 1, C Brooks (VC Camelot) 22min 21sec, 2, C Ball (Team Haverhill) 23.04; 3, R Horner (Fareham) 23.28 Team: Poole Wheelers, South West London Combine (10 miles) 1, J Froud (Festival) 25min 08sec, 2, M Deen (Redmon) 25 19, 3, A Cox (Weybridge) 25 20 Coventry RC Cyclocross (15 miles): 1, S Knight (Halesowen) 1hr 2min 30sec; 2, J Taylor (Beeston) at 2.10; 3, A Sier (Royal Sutton) at 2.15

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

Castleford 32 Featherstone 16

Castleford: Tries: Middleton 2, Flowers, Kemp, Steadman, Wray Goals: Crooks 4. Featherstone: Tries: Price 2, Molloy Goals: Aston 2. Att: 8,862.

Halifax 16 Bradford 16

Halifax: Tries: Baldwin, Bentley Goals: Schuster 4 Bradford: Tries: Newlove 2, Dixon. Goals: Fox 2. Att: 9,801.

Hull 20 Leeds 24

Hull: Tries: Busby, Jackson, G Nolan. Goals: Hewitt 4 Leeds: Tries: Hanley 2, Cummins, G Holroyd. Goals: G Holroyd 4. Att: 6,500

Salford 12 Oldham 16

Salford: Tries: Blakeley Goals: Blakeley 4 Oldham: Tries: Bolte, M Crompton. Goals: Topping 4. Att: 4,984.

Sheffield 30 Doncaster 22

Sheffield: Tries: Broadbent, Carr, Hughes, Price, Stott. Goals: Lucchese 5. Doncaster: Tries: Eaton, Fosler, Lingard, Neal Goals: Green 3 Att: 3,500

St Helens 25 Wigan 32

St Helens: Tries: Martyn 2, Lyon, Sullivan Goals: Goulding 4 Dropped goal: Goulding. Wigan: Tries: Tuigamala 2, Betts, Edwards, Offiah. Goals: Botica 6 Att: 17,300.

Warrington 11 Widnes 2

Warrington: Try: Maloney Goals: Harris 3 Dropped goal: Mackey Widnes: Goal: Hadley Att: 7,988

Workington 28 Wakefield 12

Workington: Tries: Mulligan 2, Ellis, Holgate, R Phillips. Goals: Marwood 4 Wakefield: Tries: D Nelson, Piva. Goals: Wright 2 Att: 2,600

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	15	14	0	1	568	220	28
Leeds	15	12	1	2	421	281	25
Halifax	15	11	1	3	431	209	23
Bradford	16	11	1	4	422	254	23
Castleford	15	10	2	3	430	260	22
Warrington	16	10	1	5	391	256	21
St Helens	15	10	1	4	418	307	21
Oldham	15	6	1	8	296	399	13
Salford	15	5	1	9	328	348	11
Sheffield	15	5	0	10	283	378	10
Doncaster	15	4	1	10	228	399	9
Widnes	15	4	1	10	184	376	9
Wakefield	15	4	0	11	197	432	8
Featherstn	15	3	1	11	278	353	7
Workington	15	3	1	11	205	443	7
Hull	15	2	1	12	243	408	5

Second division

Bramley	8	Hunslet	16				
Carlisle	22	Barrow	20				
Dewsbury	16	Batley	0				
Keighley	24	Hull KR	12				
Leigh	24	London B	10				
Rochdale	24	Swinton	18				
Ryedale Y	42	Huddersfield	12				

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keighley	14	12	1	1	480	167	35
Batley	16	11	0	4	339	180	22
Hull KR	15	10	0	5	491	200	20
Dewsbury	14	10	0	4	383	199	20
London B	15	10	0	5	351	219	20
Huddersfld	15	9	0	6	376	261	18
Leigh	15	9	0	6	375	268	18
Rochdale	16	9	0	7	406	325	18
Ryedale Y	15	8	1	6	392	287	17
Whitehaven	13	8	0	5	288	284	16
Hunslet	15	6	0	9	245	469	12
Swinton	15	5	0	10	274	436	10
Bramley	14	4	0	10	263	273	8
Carlisle	15	4	0	11	249	459	8
Barrow	14	1	0	13	171	444	2
Highfield	14	0	0	14	92	704	0

RUGBY UNION

Heineken League
First division

Pontypool 8 Neath 19

Pontypool: Try: Bilken Dropped goal: Ring Neath: Tries: Thomas, J Davies Pens: McCarthy 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	13	11	0	2	399	145	22
Pontypridd	12	10	0	2	293	144	20
Neath	13	7	2	4	207	222	16
Bridgend	12	7	1	4	291	262	15
Swansea	12	7	0	5	256	221	14
Treorchy	12	5	0	7	236	185	10
Newbridge	13	5	0	8	157	245	10
Dunvant	11	4	1	6	174	196	9
Llanelli	11	5	0	6	183	211	8
Abertillery	12	4	0	8	209	315	8
Pontypool	13	3	0	10	189	347	6
Newport	12	3	0	9	162	263	6

Club matches

Aberavon	8	Swansea	16
Abertillery	20	Ebbw Vale	3
(Match abandoned after 70min)			
Bath	17	Clifton	3
Bedford	54	Bedfordshire	0
Berry Hill	3	Cinderford	12
Boroughmuir	22	Currie	22
Bridgend	31	Maesteg	12
Bristol	19	Newport	5
Broughton Park	13	Sale	37
Cardiff	33	Cardiff Inst	22
Coventry	52	Warwickshire	7
Edinburgh A	20	Edinburgh B	38
Exeter	12	President's XV	20
Fylde	28	Preston G	7
Glasgow HK	22	Glasgow Acads	7
Hartlepool R	3	West Hartlepool	34
Hawick	8	Jed-Forest	16
Hawick Trades	31	Haddington	0
Hereford	8	Luctonians	13
High Wycombe	15	Chalfonts XV	10
Kelso	18	Selkirk	8
Lampeter	6	Llandovery	8
Llanelli	19	London Welsh	6
Lydney	5	Gloucester	14
Melrose	18	Gala	15
Moseley	27	Rugby	18
Newcastle G	62	Northern	0
Northampton	34	Stirling County	15
Old Penarthians	3	Penarth	16
Penygraig	10	Treorchy	17
Redruth	13	Camborne	16
Waterloo	29	Birkenhead Park	24
Weston-s-Mare	39	Bridgwater and A	10
Whitland	12	Narberth	5
Wigton	11	Aspatria	13

Postponed: Musselburgh v Preston Lodge

Cancelled: Kendal v Furness, Newbridge v Glamorgan Wanderers.

YACHTING

BOC CHALLENGE (leg 2 from Cape Town to Sydney) Class I: 1, S Calberson (C Auguin, Fr) 24days 23hr 40min, 2, Vendee Enterprises (J van den Heede, Fr) 300 miles 27 10 37, 3, Hunter's Child (S Pettengill, US) 28 02 12, 4, Coyote (D Scully, US) 28 08 04, 5, Nowell South Africa (J Provoyeur, SA) 28 20 06 Other positions (at 08 00 GMT yesterday with miles to Sydney): 6, Thursday's Child (A Taylor, US) 1,196, 7, Equreuil Poitou Charentes 2 (I Autissier, Fr) 1,655 Class II: 1, Kodak (G Soldini, It) 26 02 27, 2, True Blue (D Adams, Aus) 28 04 28 Other positions (at 08:00) 3, Newcastle Australia (A Nebauer, Aus) 839; 4, Jimroda II (N Vaughan, GB) 762; 5, Cornwall (R Dave, GB) 1,032; 6, Sky Catcher (N Rowe, GB) 1,359; 7, Shuten-Doji II (M Saito, Japan) 2,610; 8, Henry Hornblower (H Mitchell, GB) 3,081.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

* Nottingham Forest v Norwich (7.45)
Tottenham v Crystal Palace

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Bolton v Tranmere
Bristol City v Stoke
Derby v Burnley
Grimsby v Oldham
Luton v Sunderland
Millwall v Watford
Portsmouth v Barnsley
Southend v West Bromwich
Swindon v Sheffield Utd (7.45)

Second division

* Blackpool v Stockport
Bournemouth v Crewe
Brighton v Shrewsbury
Chester v Brentford
Huddersfield v Rotherham
Leyton Orient v Swansea
Oxford Utd v Wycombe
Plymouth v Bristol Rovers
Wrexham v Peterborough

Third division

Barnet v Gillingham (7.45)
Carlisle v Bury
Doncaster v Scunthorpe
Fulham v Colchester
Hereford v Exeter (12.30)
Lincoln v Darlington
Northampton v Chesterfield
Rochdale v Walsall
Scarborough v Mansfield
Torquay v Hartlepool

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Tooting and Mitcham v Leyton. Second division: Chesham v Ware, Tilbury v Aveley. Third division: Hornchurch v Collier Row

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Wealdstone v Ashford Town.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Dunstable Old Boys; Bracknell Sparta v Milton Keynes, Wingate and Finchley v Harpenden

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Taunton v Bridport.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Darenth Heathside v Cray.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v Kintbury, Bicester v Brackley (11.0), Cinderford v Moreton; Cirencester v Swindon Supermarine; Fairford v Carterton, North Leigh v Banbury, Shortwood v Almondsbury; Tuffley v Pegasus Juniors

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Willenhall v West Mid Police

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Shamrock (3.15), Monaghan v Sligo (2.15); St Patrick's Ath v Cobh Ramblers

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Lowestoft v Great Yarmouth

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Lymington v Eastleigh, Andover v Portsmouth RN, Downton v Gosport Borough; Ryde Sports v Fleet Town

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Pontefract Col

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Newhaven v Wick.

RUGBY UNION

Club matches

Ackeans v Sidcup (2.30)
Bournemouth v Havant (2.30)
Harlequins v Richmond (2.0).
Leicester v Barbarians (2.45)
Musselburgh v Preston Lodge (2.30).

Steve Fealey memorial match

Newbridge v Crawshay's Welsh XV (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

DARTS: WDC world championships (to January 2, at Circus Tavern, Purfleet)

Bucknall pardoned doctor's orders

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

DOCTOR Laszlo Nemeth, the new England basketball coach, who has been quick to jetison players reluctant to give their full support, has made an exception with Steve Bucknall, an absentee when the team begins a three-match tour of Iceland in Keflavik tonight.

Bucknall asked to be excused the trip when his girlfriend flew in from Atlanta for the Christmas holiday. "I cannot approve, but I understand Steve and, knowing his commitment, I have no problems," Nemeth said. "He has shown up for every practice and his place is secure for the qualifying round of the European championship."

With the 6ft 6in Thames Valley Tiger therefore certain to be in the team for the tournament at the National Exhibition Centre in May, the six players earning their first caps in Iceland will be doubly keen to impress Nemeth, who was the Iceland coach between 1988 and 1990. The newcomers are Mark Harvey, the Doncaster player/coach, Ian Whyte, of London Towers, Neville Austin, of Thames Valley, Pluto Vourliotis, of Manchester Giants, and Spencer Dunkley, of Saratov, the Moscow club.

"They will all get playing time," the coach said, "and it will be a good experience for them as the Icelanders are a pretty good team considering that the country's population is only 250,000." England move on from the game tonight to play in Reykjavik tomorrow and Akranes on Thursday.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	20	40	fair	varied	art	sun -2	22/12
(Rocky and icy patches lower down; 18 of 21 lifts open)							
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	20	40	fair	varied	closed	cloud -5	22/12
(Care needed on lower slopes; 40 of 64 lifts open)							
Mayrhofen	15	25	worn	poor	closed	cloud -2	22/12
(More snow needed on worn pistes; 11 of 19 lifts open)							
Schladming	20	65	fair	varied	closed	fair 2	23/12
(Adequate base on well-groomed pistes; 60 of 78 lifts open)							
St Anton	20	90	fair	varied	fair	cloud 0	22/12
(Some runs worn below 1,800 metres; 25 of 32 lifts open)							
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	10	90	fair	varied	fair	fine -4	20/12
(Moguls forming after holiday crowds; 18 of 82 lifts open)							
Avoriaz	20	65	fair	varied	fair	fine -4	22/12
(Many pistes becoming worn; 18 of 42 lifts open)							
Courchevel	15	80	worn	varied	art	fine -2	21/12
(Pistes becoming worn and hard packed; 31 of 68 lifts open)							
Val d'Isère	20	100	good	crust	fair	sun -4	21/12
(Good cover on majority of pistes, 42/52 lifts open)							
ITALY							
Cervinia	0	200	good	varied	fair	fine -3	20/12
(Off piste is powder on crust; 22 of 27 lifts open)							
SWITZERLAND							
Mürren	15	60	fair	varied	poor	fair 0	22/12
(Good piste skiing on the Schilthorn; ten of 12 lifts open)							
Verbier	15	90	fair	varied	worn	fair -1	20/12
(Some good snow remains on upper runs; 24 of 39 lifts open)							
Wengen	20	35	worn	varied	worn	clouc -2	22/12
(Most pistes now quite rocky; 17 of 25 lifts open)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

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هذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Headwinds put brake on Hobart hopefuls

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

WITH spinnakers pulling, a record fleet of 370 yachts made a spectacular sight sprinting across Sydney Harbour yesterday at the start of the fiftieth running of the 619-mile Sydney-to-Hobart classic.

The conditions were ideally suited to the former Whitbread Round the World Race ketch, *New Zealand Endeavour*. Racing under her new name, *Tasmania*, she led the fleet out alongside the smaller Australian maxi, *Hammer of Queensland*.

Once out at sea, however, the moderate southerly headwinds gave an edge to George Snow's new 75ft maxi, *Brindabella*, which blasted down the New South Wales coast at more than ten knots to stretch out a mile lead over a British entry, *Longobada*.

Tasmania, which was never designed for upwind sailing slipped to fourth, but last night as the wind eased round to the east, the former Whitbread winner was back in the hunt, running with sheets eased just 300 yards behind *Longobada*.

Surprisingly, there were few reported casualties as the fleet, which is twice the size of any previous race number, closed up in the exit channel to the harbour. Several protest flags were hoisted, and at least one yacht performed a penalty 360-degree turn — not an easy manoeuvre is such a large fleet — but damage was limited to one reported collision and the dismasting of Hugh Lewes's Hobart-based entry, *Gordon River Cruisers*, which lost her rig overboard off Coogee, 90 minutes after the start.

The headwinds, which were not predicted to fill in until today, have slowed the fleet and will now make it harder for the leaders to challenge the race record set by Jim Kilroy's *Kialoa 3* back in 1975, the last year that the fleet enjoyed sleigh-ride conditions all the way to Hobart.

Another skipper heading for Tasmania is the American BOC Challenge solo yachtsman, Arnet Taylor. He reported overnight that his 60ft yacht *Thursday's Child*, which lost its rudder within a week of leaving Cape Town on the second stage of this race around the world, lost its emergency steering during the height of another gale yesterday.

His initial goal was to head for Melbourne to fit a new rudder, but later he told race organisers. "Hobart looks better. I am confident that I can wander down there steering with sails alone."

Still more than 1,000 miles from the Sydney finish line, Arnet is likely to be overtaken by Isabelle Autissier, the French yachtswomen dismasted on December 2, who has been making remarkable progress since limping into the Kerguelen Islands to step a replacement cruising rig shipped out to her from Reunion Island.

After a series of 200-mile days, Autissier, who had led the fleet by a wide margin before calamity struck, is now within 1,500 miles of the finish and due to reach Sydney in plenty of time to step a new racing mast and rejoin the race for the third stage around Cape Horn.

Others also making steady progress include the British quartet, Niah Vaughan presently in fourth place within class 2, Cornishman Robin Davie, Nigel Rowe and Harry Mitchell, the 70-year-old pensioner with 3,000 miles still to cover.

Davie, whose 40ft yacht *Cornwall* is one of the smallest in the fleet, has made commendable progress in pulling more than 350 miles ahead of Rowe's much larger yacht, *Sky Catcher*, which has followed a more northerly route to the main fleet.

Results, page 24

Lancashire take honours as Cheshire fall short

PETER LOMAS



Justin Pidcock, the Cheshire forward, avoids a lunging tackle from a Lancashire defender at Preston in the annual Boxing Day encounter between the counties

Lancashire	1
Cheshire	1

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE BOXING Day hockey match at Preston yesterday ended with Lancashire regaining the trophy after drawing with Cheshire in the senior match. Cheshire had needed a decisive victory to take overall honours after the veterans' match ended 3-3 and Lancashire had won the under-21 game 3-1.

Cheshire, represented mainly by players from the Neston and Brooklands clubs, looked stronger on paper with the Crutchley brothers, Robert, Sam and Andy in the team and their father, Peter, as manager. But neither side attained mastery under trying conditions, with rain falling almost throughout the proceedings. The floodlights were switched on at two o'clock, at the start of the match.

Cheshire had the better of the exchanges in the first half, Robert Crutchley giving them the lead midway through when he flicked the ball into the net from a short corner. Lancashire came back strongly in the second half and Humphries equalised with a well-taken goal from open play. In the closing minutes Lancashire were deprived of a goal from a penalty stroke when Woods hit a post.

In the past, this match has been played as part of the county championship. But under the new format Lancashire and Cheshire cannot meet again unless they emerge winners of their respective pools.

LANCASHIRE: A Forshaw (Formby), N Stanhope (Warrington), T Rothwell (Warrington), D Cooke (Formby), A Ferns (Southport, captain), S Mather (Northern), D Robins (St Anne's), S Humphries (Southport), J Bell (Formby), G Dicken (Warrington), J Woods (Doncaster). Substitute used: S Storey (Formby).
CHESHIRE: C Ashcroft (Neston); P Edwards (Cannock), R Yeats (Brooklands), D Fox (Brooklands), S Crutchley (Firebrands, captain), A Crutchley (Neston), R Crutchley (Hounslow), J Pidcock (Cannock), A Aldred (Brooklands), D Cheshire (Neston), A Turnbull (Neston). Substitutes used: G Stoneleigh (Timperley), A Bradshaw (Neston), R Wisencraft (Oxton).
Umpires: G Nash and H Jamson (Northern Counties).

☐ James Molloy, the scorer of seven goals in as many matches for Surbiton, the national league leaders, is the key forward in the President's XI to play Cheam in the annual Dick Hollands memorial match at Cheam today. With two other Surbiton players in the side, Miles and Justesen, supported by two Richmond players, Marchant and Elmett, the Cheam president, Tony Bennett, is confident that his team will maintain its long run of successes.

PRESIDENT'S XI: M Miles (Surbiton); D Justesen (Surbiton), R Elmett (Richmond), W Davies (Wimbledon), I Pinks (Sevenoaks), P Mulligan (Old Walcountians), N Pendle (Chichester), J Molloy (Surbiton), G Marchant (Richmond), M Allcock (Epsom), R Hallett (Old Walcountians).

South Africans build on Jack's first impression

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SOUTH AFRICA'S bowlers needed little time to put New Zealand in trouble on the opening day of the second Test match at the Kingsmead ground in Durban yesterday, bad light ending play at tea with the touring team 130 for eight. Although the day represented a good bowling performance from South Africa — who lost the first Test — there was also some poor batting as three New Zealanders perished to hook or pull shots.

Steven Jack marked his Test debut with two wickets and a catch as South Africa's seam bowlers took command, Fanie de Villiers taking three for 51 and Brian McMillan three for 35. Jack's two for 14 in 10 overs included the crucial wicket of Martin Crowe and Ken Rutherford, the New Zealand captain, was left to rue his decision to bat first after winning the toss.

Although the skies were darkening slightly, conditions were not dangerous to the batsmen when Cyril Mitchley and Khizar Hayat, the umpires, took the players off two minutes before the tea interval. The light did not deteriorate, nor did it improve, and the last session was lost.

New Zealand quickly ran into trouble, losing their first two wickets for 19, but had recovered to 56 for two at lunch with Darrin Murray and Crowe building a slow but solid third-wicket stand that ultimately added 43.

The collapse began off the last ball of the second over after lunch, when Crowe, three runs short of equalling John Wright's New Zealand record of 5,334 in Tests, mishooked a short ball from Jack to de Villiers at long-leg. It was Jack's second wicket; his Test career had got off to an excellent start when he bowled Bryan Young and took the catch at long-leg to remove Steven Fleming during the morning.

Once Crowe had departed, two more wickets went quickly. Rutherford fell without scoring when he attempted to pull de Villiers but scooped a catch to John Commins, the Boland captain who like Jack was making his Test debut, at mid-wicket. Then Murray, who had batted for 160 minutes for 38, edged de Villiers to the wicketkeper.

Having omitted both spinners, Clive Eksteen and Pat Symcox, Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, had to rotate his seamers and when McMillan replaced de Villiers he responded with a spell of three for 14 in five overs.

Adam Parore gave a catch to Gary Kirsten at short leg, Matthew Hart edged to Cronje in the gulley and Simon Doull provided Richardson, the wicketkeeper, his second catch of the day. Shane Thomson was the only New Zealand batsman to take on the bowlers successfully. He hit nine fours and one six, including 26 runs off two overs from de Villiers, as he reached 53 not out from 54 balls.

Danny Morrison, the fast bowler, replaced the injured Dion Nash for New Zealand while Chris Pringle came in for Richard de Groen. Since New Zealand recorded a memorable 137-run win in the first match of the three-Test series in Johannesburg last month, they have suffered from poor form and a lack of preparation.

☐ Hylton Ackerman, the Western Province batsman, scored 118 out of a total of 330 for six against a weakened Pakistani attack on the first day of a four-day match in Cape Town yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young b Jack	2
D J Murray c Richardson b de Villiers	38
S P Fleming c Jack b de Villiers	4
M D Crowe c de Villiers b Jack	18
*K R Rutherford c Commins b de Villiers	0
S A Thomson not out	53
†A C Parore c Kirsten b McMillan	5
M N Hart c Cronje b McMillan	5
S B Doull c Richardson b McMillan	0
D K Morrison not out	0
Extras (lb 4, nb 1)	5
Total (8 wkts)	130

C Pringle to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-19, 3-62, 4-85, 5-66, 6-102, 7-114, 8-114.

BOWLING: Jack 10-4-14-2; de Villiers 16-5-51-3; Matthews 14-9-22-0; McMillan 11-3-35-3; Cronje 1-0-3-0.

SOUTH AFRICA: A C Hudson, G Kirsten, *W J Cronje, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, J. Commins, B M McMillan, †D J Richardson, C R Matthews, P S de Villiers and S D Jack.

Umpires: C Mitchley (SA) and Khizar Hayat (Pakistan).

King's strike blow for English pride

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

In recent times, touring teams visiting Australia have left bruised, battered and often beaten. If it is not by the teams themselves, it is as likely to be from the belligerent sporting psyche of the Australian press and public.

Not so, however, for the cricketers of King's College, Taunton, who returned from Australia for Christmas bronzed and beaming, having lost a couple of matches, won many more, and, in cricketing terms, having learnt a great lesson for the future.

The 14-strong squad of Somerset schoolboys realised that Australians expect nothing less than total commitment and, after England's defeat in the first Test, one of the tour party admitted: "There were times, such as when the emerging players had successive victories over England, when it was actually quite easy to disown the England team."

The 16-day tour, taking in Perth, Cairns and Sydney, provided invaluable experience for the King's squad, eight of whom play representative cricket; among them are Sam Diment, 17, who has already played for Somerset second XI, Nick Boulton, a Transvaal junior, and Gavin Armstrong, 15, grandson of the former West Indies batsman, Roy Marshall.

The format of the matches was limited overs, rarely played in English schools, and the tour was launched with a "return" fixture against the Western Australian schools champions, Wesley College, who plundered 381-4 off 50 overs, with Ben Hollioake, the brother of the Surrey all-rounder Adam, reaching 62, retiring, and then restricting King's to 191-6 with a style of bowling not unlike that of his big brother.

Wesley College's ground in Perth with its flat, fast pitch and outfield was a rude awakening for King's. Four days earlier, they had been battling through their last rugby match of the season against Clifton College in mud and drizzle.

A visit to the Waca, for a day/night match between Western Australia and Queensland whetted the appetite. "Western Australia were phenomenal in the field," Ray Codd, the former Rosslyn Park and Barbarians full back, who has been a master at the school for 12 years, said. "The commitment, teamwork and determination seemed streets ahead of county cricket. Somehow the athleticism of all 11 players was mesmerising." The display certainly inspired the Taunton tourists who won five of their eight one-day matches.

They were hosted in Perth by Hale, whose headmaster is the former Australia cricketer, John Inverarity, whose dogged, strokeless defence, and hours at the crease, once prompted E. W. Swanton to rename him Inforeverity. The cricketing connections continued, while playing Guildford Grammar School, Perth, when they discovered that the headmaster was the father of Tom Moody, the Worcestershire and Western Australia all-rounder.

Yet King's College has its own cricketing heritage: Roger Twose, of Warwickshire and Richard Harden, of Somerset, are former pupils.

Richard Yeates, master in charge of the first XI, saw a different approach in Australia. "Being arrogant and having self-esteem on the field is not seen as a problem. They clearly teach these things to their players. Off the field, they were marvellous hosts. But they are mentally harder. This is because sport is revered. It is a totally recognised means of occupying kids. Cricket and cricketers are everywhere, on TV, in adverts, posters, billboards, simply everywhere."

Dennis Breakwell, the former Northamptonshire and Somerset slow left-arm bowler, who is the head groundsman and coach at the school, was impressed by the structure and government backing for cricket development, but believes that, certainly at schoolboy level, there is very little difference in ability.

"What I would love to see is limited-overs cricket played in schools in this country. Many of the touring sides who visit our school play limited-overs cricket, and running between the wickets, tighter fielding from the start, and greater variation of bowlers is all instantly recognisable," said Breakwell.

"In Australia, seven or eight schools will play a round robin limited overs tournament at the centre of their season. In Perth, some schools play Friday-Saturday, while in Sydney they play over two Saturdays. School matches have increased from 50 to 100 overs, which gives them a greater concentration span."

Both the schoolboys and teachers believe adopting a similar system in England could prove highly beneficial.

"Playing limited overs cricket as opposed to declaration would hopefully lead to faster, truer wickets over here, schoolboys learning to play better off the back foot, and set up a stronger competitive atmosphere," Yeates said.

"We'd like to choose eight or so fixtures with other schools who have opponents in common and set up a league. It would make the season far more stimulating."

To a man, the tour party agreed.



King's boys Bostock, left, and Lamey return triumphant

A STORY IS TOLD of Donald, a revered ghillie in years gone by on a certain loch of our acquaintance. It was a bad morning for trout, the water a glassy calm.

Donald toiled all morning at the oars while his cargo of two London businessmen caught nothing.

As lunchtime neared, Donald began to look forward to the lustrous sherry-gold depths of The Macallan Malt Whisky which was the customary reward for a deserving ghillie. But the otiose Sassenachs had other ideas.

"No fish, Donald," they cried. *"Then no whisky!"* Donald said nothing, and ate his lunch at some remove.

Nae Macallan...
Nae fish...



But the iron had entered his soul. The wind rose. And all afternoon while every other boat on the loch was landing an almost miraculous draught of trout, Donald rowed his clients slowly up and down the one unruffled stretch of water.

When evening came, he deposited his fishless clients on the bank, and surveyed them gravely as they rifled through their treasuries of insult, goggling like the trout they had so signally failed to capture.

"Nae Macallan," said Donald at last. *"Nae fish!"* And rowed off into the gloaming.

The MACALLAN The Malt



DANCE page 27

Return of the perennial Nutcracker: Londoners are spoilt for choice with two fine productions

ARTS

TOMORROW

Film director Louis Malle talks about Chekhov, Mamet — and his own stormy past



The man who knew too much

When the Master sent for **John Russell Taylor**, the former *Times* film critic expected the worst

Meeting celebrities is one thing, getting to know them quite another. I was reflecting on this in December 1975, while lunching with Alfred Hitchcock in his studio dining room, as had been my wont, every week or so, for the previous three years.

I was preparing to go off for my afternoon class at the University of Southern California when Hitchcock observed, very deadpan: "Oh, do you have to go? I was just going — but then, perhaps you wouldn't be interested — to suggest you might like to see the first print of the new movie, *Family Plot*, we're calling it now. It's not quite finished, but I thought it might amuse you . . ."

As I phoned the university to say that I was unavoidably detained, I compared this very personal screening with the way I had got to see Hitch's previous film, *Frenzy*, and how nearly disastrous that had been. It all started when my friend Fred heard I was going to spend a month in Hollywood at the beginning of 1972. Fred was in the habit of taking items, difficult to obtain in America, to his Hollywood friends. He knew that I was interested in art nouveau, and thought it would be interesting for me if I took a special kind of mustard from him to the producer Jennings Lang, who had a great collection of Mucha originals I would surely like to see. Lang was subsequently to find fame as the producer of *Airport*, but at this time, more interestingly, he was best known as the recipient of a bullet from fellow producer Walter Wanger in a famous parking-lot fracas over Wanger's then wife Joan Bennett.

This did not seem to be quite a tactful subject of conversation, but Mucha was all right, so when I arrived in LA I called Lang and was invited to go round for drinks the following evening. An hour later his secretary called back and asked whether I like to make it that very evening: he was screening the new Hitchcock film, *Frenzy* — then three or four months away from release — and thought I might like to see it. Wouldn't I just! When this all happened, I should say, I had met Hitchcock a couple of times, as film critic of *The Times*, and had lurked on the sidelines during quite a bit of the London shooting of *Frenzy*. So the chance of stealing a march on the world was irresistible.

The day I met . . .
ALFRED HITCHCOCK

> "The chance of stealing a march on the world was irresistible"

I duly arrived that evening at Lang's house, carrying Fred's mustard. Lang was amiable enough, but somewhat distrait, with, I felt, half an eye on the clock. Eventually he said: "Fred tells me you are interested in Mucha. Perhaps you'd like to take a quick look at my collection. Very quick, I'm afraid, because I'm running a movie for guests at seven." I said, rather pointedly: "Yes, I know. That's what you asked me to come for."

Anyway, we chatted as we looked at his pictures, and he said: "Well, stay for another drink. Maybe Robert De Niro will not turn up after all, and then I can certainly show you the movie." And, in the end, I got to see *Frenzy*, just about the first kid on any block to do so.

Of course I loved it, and told Lang. He was apparently silly enough to confess what he had done to Hitchcock, urging my high opinion of the film in compensation. The result was that Hitch was furious with him for showing it to the critic of an important paper, and never spoke to him again.

But how did that leave him feeling about me? Come the next Cannes Festival I was to find out. *Frenzy* was receiving its world premiere there. A couple of days before the festival screening I received a mysterious summons. Would I come to lunch with Mr Hitchcock at noon the following day?

When I arrived at his hotel he whisked me away immediately in a chauffeur-driven car, along the coast to a restaurant in the midst of some dreary *terrain vague*, looking like a location for *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. The place was absolutely deserted, though obviously Hitch was well known there, and was made much of. Once we were seated Hitch turned to me and, in his most magisterial fashion, intoned: "I expect you're wondering why I wanted to see you quite privately like this."

A long, significant pause. "I wanted to talk to you about . . . your book *The Rise and Fall of the Wellmade Play*. It's an absolute classic. Whenever aspiring writers ask me about script construction I tell them to read it. Now, what I wanted to ask you was . . ."

I cannot remember what it was he wanted to ask me: something about Henry Arthur Jones, I think. But anyway, we sat there alone until 4.30pm chatting happily about the London theatre of his youth, about which, needless to say, his knowledge was encyclopaedic and his enthusiasm profound. And never a word about *Frenzy*, let alone Lang and his faux pas. I suppose I had passed some kind of test.



Alfred Hitchcock invited John Russell Taylor to see No 53 in his long line of films — after No 52 had led to trouble

CONCERT

Terror vision

THE hopes and fears of all the years — and a certain atavistic sense of primitive terror besides — met in the Danish National Radio Choir's London concert. It was somewhat deceptively called "Christmas from Copenhagen": those hoping for sugared pastries and glowing yule-stars may have been in for a bit of a shock.

After the interval, it is true, there were five little Christmas songs and hymns in which this excellent choir showed how to make a Lutheran chorale into the finest of art-songs, each part light and mobile. And, as the four square yielded to six lilting quavers, the origins of the ballad in the *ballo*, or the dance, sprung wonderfully into mind.

But, with their rapidly expanding programme of recordings and tours, the choir was here to show its mettle. In a cunning and challenging first half the voices were heard

Danish NR Choir/ Parkman
St John's, Smith Square

in their true lights — and darknesses. The fine, transparent homogeneity of sound which draws this choir close to the classically Nordic Eric Ericson sound (its Swedish conductor, Stefan Parkman, trained with him) is just one small part of its sound palette. It was all but banished for Per Norgard's "Wie ein Kind", a piece that tellingly juxtaposes the springing gibberish of the schizophrenic Swiss writer Wölfli with a verse by Rilke.

Here, the earthiness of the Danish voices came to the fore; and so did the rich tapestry of fine cotton fibres, thicker woollen threads, bright silks and pastels that weave together as the visibly individual parts of a strongly unified whole, and give the choir its distinctive voice.

This spoke equally eloquently in another pairing of poems, which also balanced integration with disintegration, innocence with experience, until they coexisted. The Swedish composer Sven-David Sandström takes Blake's "Cradle Song" and "The Tyger", gradually overlaying the one with the other, as whispers of "Tyger tyger" disturb the slow-moving, close harmonies of the lullaby, and seem to speak of humanity's deepest unspoken fears.

Those fears rose up and shouted out in the choir's final tour de force, the "Curse upon Iron" by the Estonian composer Veljo Tormis. An epic invocation to and damnation of the destructive evil concealed in Iron, it is half chanted, half sung in rhythms and fragments whose incantatory power owes much to the Finnish *Kalevala* epic; and it is accompanied by the hollow beat of a shaman's drum. It is only, Tormis seems to be saying, by reuniting with these ancient rhythms and eternal values that man and iron, both earth-born, will be able to exist side by side. Neither the message, nor the choir, will be quickly forgotten.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRE FOR CHILDREN: **Kate Bassett** rounds up the best on offer in London

Having a great Grimm time

For **Grimm Tales** (at the Young Vic), one of the best pieces of theatre around — and that's not just for children — Carol Ann Duffy has translated a handful of the Grimm Brothers' tales in an unsentimentalised way, with a keen awareness of their innate poetry. Tim Supple, assembling a concentrated team, directs with inspirational inventiveness as his actors slip between storytelling and playing all the parts.

Hansel and Gretel (an outstanding Dan Milne and Sarah C. Cameron) journey into the forest with their cruel mother simply by circling the stage in nightmarish slow motion, pushing aside a besom or a glinting knife held by stationary actors as if these are obstructing branches. Even the small children in the audience, their imaginations probably more open than adults' to make-believe, seem to have no trouble following such sophisticated stylisation.

The aesthetic is at once spartan and exquisitely beautiful. While "Hansel and Gretel" has a touch of Brecht's Poor Theatre, with its tin buckets for props, in the "Cinderella" story a shimmering gossamer dress floats down from the flies. In fact, each tale has its own style. The Golden Goose is a sort of orange velvet Emu with a honky-horn beak. As everybody gets stuck to its tail, the company zooms up and down the aisles with floppy life-size ragdolls tagging along.

Then there is the fable, with a scorching moral, played out by tiny wooden toys — the Mouse, the Bird and the Sausage — that are air-lifted around their mini-kitchen by Milne with the aid of a hook-ended pole. Living musicians accompany the action, playing ethnic instruments; sometimes singing Celtic-style, elsewhere drumming with African or Indian beats.

The show may not be for hypersensitive toddlers: there are some splendidly scary bits. Linda Kerr Scott does a fantastic wicked-witch dance, a sort of cannibal horror movie stomp, in ghastly rubber gloves with great big nails attached. Aargh. I have already been to see it twice.

The Little Angel in Islington is a tiny national treasure. This pint-size marionette theatre for children, adjacent to the workshop where the puppets are carved, is virtually unchanged since it was lovingly converted from a derelict chapel in the 1960s.

Angelo, showing over Christmas, is the story of a family of tumblers and jugglers travelling round mediaeval Italy in their horse-drawn wagon. The troupe comes into view, trekking across the miniature stage — a gold-framed window in the wall — like marionettes in Cinemascope. The hand-and-rod puppets are based on drawings by Quentin Blake, which beautifully combine the ethereal and the funny.

Angelo, our boy-hero in his Harlequin suit, treads the tightrope with whimsically long bendy legs. By contrast, Mama and Papa are round-bellied, ruddy peasants, and baby Sandro scoots about with a head smaller than a tennis ball and the rest of his body no bigger.

One can just about make out the puppeteers, all in black, working with dextrous intensity and delightful results, creating movements at once startlingly lifelike and amusingly defying such limits.

The piece would be better if the narrator, who keeps popping round the front, were a proper actor rather than a puppeteer, and the story thread is slightly thin. Angelo's role is not clearly central until he meets Angelina. She sees him from her high balcony and escapes in a laundry basket, with his help, chased by her pointy-chinned uncle who has a nigh-on satanic ability literally to take off in pursuit.

But essentially, *Angelo* is a perfect excuse for impossible acrobatics. Benno and Beppo, Angelo's twin brothers, balance on the tips of each others' fingers and juggle mysteriously slow-moving cabbages that magically turn into whizzing trails of green smoke. Enchanting.

A seasonal but not enthralling show for the very young, **Mr Rabbit Meets Brer Santa** (at the Puppet Theatre Barge, W9), is a cluster of the African-American folk tales of Brer Rabbit. Mr Rabbit outwits Brother Fox, persuading Bear to take his place in Fox's basket; escaping from a well by enticing Fox to join him below in the other bucket; or wriggling out of becoming Fox's Christmas dinner by talking Mouse into gnawing him out of a sack.

The animals are unpainted wooden string puppets, something like a cross-breed between an artist's jointed model of the human body and those modern African carvings of antelope and the like. Mr Rabbit has twitchable ears and flappy paws but the limbs of a man.

This staging's black influences and anthropomorphic elements are enriching and humorous. The narrator, on tape, speaks with a deep mellifluous lilt. Fox slinks to a blues sax or, when vexed, jiggles to jazz. Mr Rabbit has a "hang-loose" lope about his legs-on-threads. However, the puppeteers do not truly pinpoint creatures' individual gaits. Several children believed Brother Bear to be a cow, and I misclassified the unintroduced, unbouncing baby rabbits as dwarf jackals.

Still, the theatre barge, moored in scenic Little Venice, is a small snug adventure in itself. The tales celebrate mischief and (albeit none-too-altruistic) survival instincts. It is also not every day you see a fox sneaking around in a Santa outfit.

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ROCK

Bored to boogie

ZZ Top
Wembley Arena

HAVING flourished for 25 years, irrespective of fashions and trends, the longest-lasting trio in rock are finally running out of steam. This was the last show of a worldwide tour that began soon after the release of their eleventh album, *Antenna*, in January. But instead of the jokey triumphalism that might have been expected, a palpable air of weariness hung about the band.

Frank Beard's drums were perched atop a giant imitation of a vintage American car dashboard. Guitarist Billy Gibbons and bass player Dusty Hill played the opening number, "World Of Swirl", alongside him, then descended to the stage.

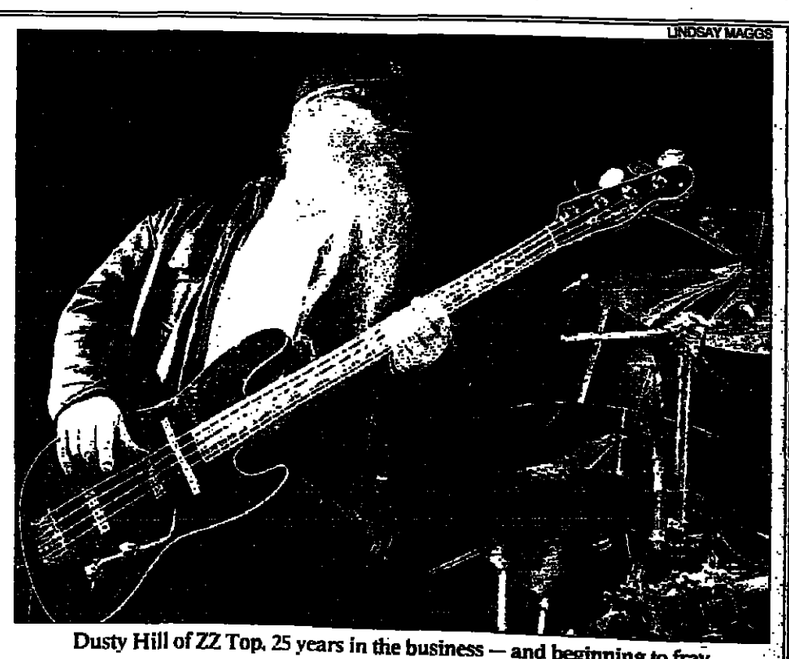
There were flashes of the old magic early on, when they pushed off into a sequence of favourites beginning with "Waiting For The Bus" and its inevitable companion "Jesus Just Left Chicago". A rarely featured version of "Just Got Back From Baby's", from *ZZ Top's First Album*, was an unlikely highlight, a back-to-basics 12-bar, which underlined their ability as a blues band par excellence. Likewise Gibbons's solo at the end of "Rough Boy", against a simple, repeated sequence, provided a rare moment of delight.

But new songs such as "Fuzzbox Voodoo" and "Antenna Head" were mediocre at best, and compared with previous outings the show was a distinctly low-budget operation. The lighting was unspectacular and there were none of the old theatrical stunts.

Instead, the visual element was supplied by six statuesque women, who disported themselves in a variety of minimalist costumes throughout the set. Clearly they had not been hired for their dancing abilities, and their clumsily graphic illustrations of songs such as "A Fool For Your Stockings" and "Legs" imported the seedy aesthetic of the strip club to the proceedings.

Even the concluding volley of hits — among them "Sharp Dressed Man", "Gimme All Your Lovin' " and a version of "Viva Las Vegas" which Hill could hardly be bothered to sing at all — could not dispel the impression of a band that has lost its golden touch.

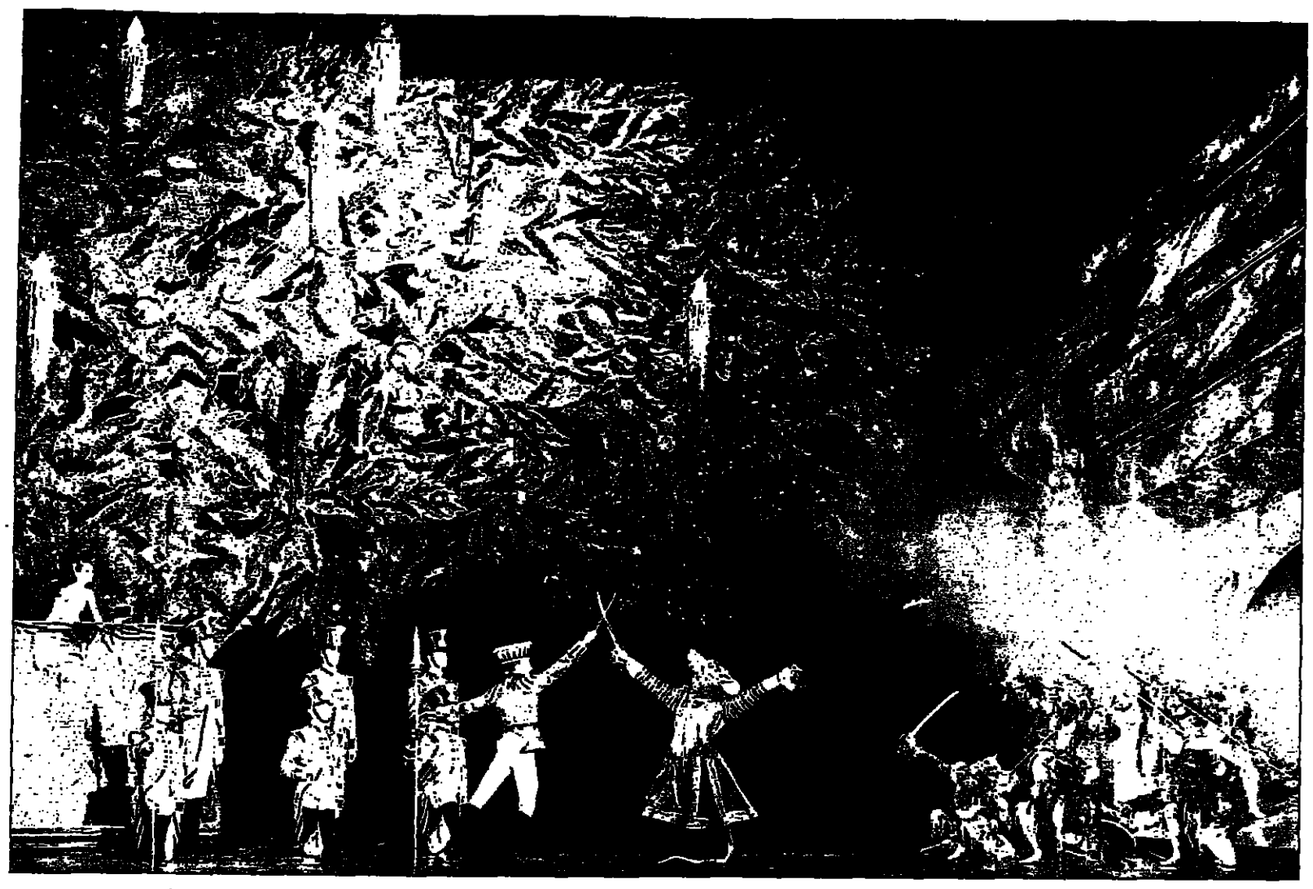
DAVID SINCLAIR



Dusty Hill of ZZ Top, 25 years in the business — and beginning to fray

هذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل



A *Nutcracker* to end all *Nutcrackers*: Birmingham Royal Ballet's superb production by Peter Wright is now on show at the London Coliseum

Christmas feast for eye and ear

DANCE: London is offered a trio of major productions for the holiday season. **Debra Craine** reviews them all

If gongs were handed out for persistence, **English National Ballet** would long ago have claimed its medal for service to the nation. Its *Nutcracker* is a British dance tradition of remarkable longevity, the company having performed it annually at the Festival Hall for more than 40 years. At least three million people have seen it since 1952; already more than 250,000 have seen the current production by Ben Stevenson, which was premiered in 1991.

ENB's production owes its success in part to Stevenson's straightforward telling of E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816 tale, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, and to the cosy settings of designer Desmond Heeley. Between them they have concocted an attractive, suitably seasonal *Nutcracker* which sparkles like a German Christmas card and fulfils our preconceived notions about children and Yuletide.

The carved oak drawing room of Act I — like a cuckoo clock writ large — welcomes us into the Stahlbaum household with its boisterous brood of gift-hungry youngsters and the beer-barrel bellies of grown-up family and friends. The Land of Snow, which follows, is a place where icicles glisten like diamonds on the wintry landscape: Act II's Kingdom of the Sweets, with its flying pastry cook angels and colourful bonbons, is a visual treat.

Stevenson's choreography services the storyline in a pedestrian manner. The ice dance routine for the Snow Queen and the Nutcracker Prince is more Torvill and Dean than Ivanov — and why not? — but the national dances of Act II lack the fluidity and logic of Tchaikovsky's score.

Happily, Stevenson's version does give us the chance to see two ballerinas at work. American guest artist Susan Jaffe was the Snow Queen on Wednesday's opening night. She adorned her steely interior strength with a velvety exterior finish in a performance that was accomplished, if a little remote. As the Sugar Plum Fairy, Agnes Oaks — ENB's resident leading ballerina — looked a little pained, but her old-fashioned interpretive decoration, especially in the expressive tilt of her head, was lovely. Partnering both women was Thomas Edur, a Nutcracker Prince of rare refinement whose unabashed courtliness served him well.

On Thursday night, at the Coliseum, **Birmingham Royal Ballet** presented the London premiere of Peter Wright's *Nutcracker*, surely one of the finest *Nutcrackers* to be seen anywhere. Birmingham's is an altogether grander, more aristocratic affair. The moment the curtain rises on Christmas at the Stahlbaums it becomes clear that we have climbed the social ladder. The jolly middle-class bonhomie of ENB's version here gives way to a well-mannered upper-class formality. These drawing room walls are lined in red silk: Mrs

> 'ENB's version of *Nutcracker* is a British tradition of remarkable longevity'

Stahlbaum sports a new diamond necklace: servants are much in evidence.

There is also a greater sense of magic in the Wright production: Drosselmeyer is a seductive and clever fellow; his tricks are more impressive and — in the way he repairs the broken Nutcracker doll without even touching it — a little intimidating, too. The transformation scene is the production's coup de théâtre: the Christmas tree becomes a creepy tangle of menacing vegetation; the giant fireplace spurts fire and smoke and life-sized rats. Clara inhabits a spellbinding, nightmare world where Drosselmeyer and his dolls reappear as fellow travellers in a journey through the darker reaches of a young girl's mind.

Wright's most important decision was to make Clara more grown-up, a ballet student on the threshold of sexual awakening. This allows him to cast an adult in the role — on opening night a superb Sandra Madgwick — and to create depictive choreography that accentuates her budding womanhood. In the first scene, Madgwick fluttered like a young girl just discovering the opposite sex; in the Land of Snow she plunged into a flowing current of movement with her Nutcracker Prince (a majestic and ardent performance from Covent Garden star Irek Mukhamedov) in the evening's best moment.

Act II takes Clara to a deserted hall of marble columns where Drosselmeyer (a charismatic Joseph Cipolla) conjures up a world of exotica and where Clara is transformed into the ballerina of her dreams. Miyako Yoshida's Sugar Plum Fairy. The grand pas de deux between Yoshida and Mukhamedov was exquisitely judged: she the consummate ballerina, he the noble, unobtrusively attentive partner.

Another fine partnership — between Viviana Durante and Bruce Sansom — graced the **Royal Ballet**'s seasonal offering, Ashton's *Cinderella*. Made in 1948, *Cinderella* was the first full-length classical ballet created by an English choreographer and despite an occasional unhappy misalliance between music and movement, it has remained a perennial favourite ever since.

Ashton's choreography is at its best in demi-caractère mode and the panto dame stepsisters are one of his finest comic creations. But the big romantic moments — so lush and epic in the Prokofiev score — elude him. Especially disappointing is the lack of a final confirming pas de deux for Cinderella and her Prince. Still there is much to enjoy, not least the richly descriptive variations: Cinderella with her broom, the Dancing-Master, the seasonal fairies.

On Friday, Durante was a high-spirited heroine, not prepared to take her unhappy domestic situation sitting down. Sansom was seductively boyish and utterly infatuated with his Cinderella. Both danced with confidence in a very effective partnership.

LONDON

CHRISTMAS AT THE BARBICAN BBC Children's TV presenter Simon Parkin hosts an afternoon s fun for tho children. **Teddy Bears Concert**. The London Concert Orchestra plays a selection of tunes including *The Pink Panther*, the can-can and, of course, *Teddy Bears' Picnic*. Also featuring the stories to the music of *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Ugly Duckling*. Special reductions for best-holders. **Barbican**, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891) This afternoon, 3.00pm.

In the evening the acclaimed **Mozart Festival Orchestra** offers **Mozart in Costume**. The programme of Mozart favourites, including Overture to *Così Fan Tutte*, *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* and *Clarinet Concerto*, is performed in elegant 18th-century dress. Ian Watson conducts with Clarinettist Jack Brymer. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) Tonight, 7.30pm

SOUTH BANK FESTIVITIES David Wood, a well-known face from BBC's *Playaway* and *Jackanory*, presents his own theatre show combining magic, music and audience participation. **Purcell Room**, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800) This afternoon-Dec 30, 3.00pm.

In addition, a new translation of **Rossini's Cinderella** opens tonight. A joyously irreverent production, Music Theatre London's acclaimed performance recreates what is one of Rossini's best-loved operas. Until Jan 3. **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight, 7.15pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The ten-piece Expresso Bongo Orchestra, also known as the EBO, combines brash showmanship with influences as varied as swing, salsa, funk and ska in a joyous party that lasts until the new year. **Ronnie Scott's**, Broad Street (021-643 4525). Tonight-Dec 31, 8.15pm.

Also in Birmingham, as we approach the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War, the **Glenn Miller Orchestra** recreates the legend with a feast of all-time favourites in their original arrangements. Performed in wartime US Air Force Band uniforms with Paul Archbold on trumpet. **Symphony Hall**, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333) Tonight, 7.30pm.

THEATR CLWYD A chance to see Dorothy and chums as they follow that Yellow Brick Road in the RSC version of *The Wizard of Oz*. With thy music and lyrics of the famous film. **Mold Theatre**, Mold (0352 755114) Tonight-Jan 21, 7.00pm. mats. 2.00pm

Alternatively, witness the expensive craze of the fast-living Toad in A.A. Milne's *Toad of Toad Hall*, a version in which 1930's jazz meets 1950's rock'n'roll. Performed by the Clwyd Youth Theatre. **Emlyn Williams Theatre**, Mold (0352-755 114) Tonight-Jan 2, 7.15pm, mats. 2.15.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum Byzantine Treasures from British Collections; Prints of the Barbizon School; New European Applied Arts Galleries. (071-636 1555) . **Hayward** The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790-1990 (071-928 3144) . **National Portrait Gallery** The Sitwells. Christina Rossetti (071-306 0055) . . **National Gallery** The Young Michelangelo (071-839 3321) . . **Royal Academy** The Painted Page (071-439 7438) **Serpentine** Rebecca Horn (071-402 6075) . **Tate**: Whistler. Clore Gallery; Rebecca Horn (071-887 8000) . . **V & A** Kalighat: Indian Popular Painting 1800-1930, Nehru Gallery; the Ironwork and Glass Galleries (071-938 8500) . **Whitechapel** Worlds in a Box (071-522 7888)

Tickets available at time of going to press; please check box office.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Paul Haynes

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ ***Some seats available***
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE**: Nigel Hawthorne amusing as the dilapidated Lord Ogleby but his direction prettifies and diminishes the play. **Queens**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sats and Dec 28, 2.30pm, Dec 29, 3pm.

FLORA THE RED MENACE Attractive staging of Kander & Ebb's first musical, a surprising story of an all-American girl toying with communism. Lucy Tregear in the role created by Liza Minelli. **Orange Tree**, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat, 4pm and Thurs from Dec 29, 2.30pm. No perf Dec 25-27 or Jan 2. Until Feb 4

☐ **NEW ENGLAND** Richard Nelson looks at the English abroad, behaving just as Americans say we do. Interesting ideas and good acting led by Angela Thorne, David Burke and Mark Ford. **Pit**, Barbican Centre EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm.

■ **OLIVER!** Lavish revival of Bart's merry musical. Low on social comment, big on tunes. Jonathan Pryce as Fagin. **Palladium**, Argyll St, W1 (071-494 5020) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Extra mat Dec 29, 2.30pm.

◪ **THE RIVALS**: Richard Cottrell's likeable production from Chichester, with Patricia Routledge's splendidly wild Mrs Malaprop like a lace-encrusted windmill. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat 3pm. Until Jan 14.

☐ **A SPANNER IN THE WORKS** Three retired lawyers persuade a stranger to submit to a mock trial, with alarming results, in staging of Durrenmatt's 1955 radio play. A bit old-fashioned but worth a visit. **Greenwich Studio**, Prince of Orange, Greenwich High St, SE10. (081-858 2662) Tue-Sun, 8pm. Until Jan 8

☐ **A TALE OF TWO CITIES** Alexis Denisof plays Darnay and Timothy Walker is Sydney Carton in Matthew Francis's version of the Dickens epic. **Greenwich**, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Dec 27 and Jan 2, 3.30pm, and all Sats, 2.30pm. Until Feb 4

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**. Tom Hollander sings Macheath in Kurt Weill's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht". Phyllida Lloyd's splendid revival. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham St, WC2 (071-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Three children find a fugitive in a barn and mistake him for Jesus. National Youth Music Theatre present the Russell Labey/Richard Taylor musical based on the popular film. **Riverside Studio 1**, Crisp Rd, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2255). Dec 28-31 7.30pm, mats Dec 28-31, 2.30pm. Until Dec 31

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Patrick Barlow plays the unsquashable Toad in this year's wonderful revival. **National** (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Wed, Sat and on Thurs Dec 29, 2pm. Until Jan 14. Tonight, 7.15pm, mat, 2.00pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**, Haymarket (071-930 8800) ☐ **Beautiful Thing**, Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . ◪ **Blood Brothers** Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . ◪ **Buddy** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . ■ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) ☐ **Copacabana** Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . ■ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (071-734 8951) ◪ **Don't Dress for Dinner** Duchess (071-494 5070) ◪ **Five Guys Named Moe**, Lyric (071-494 5045) ◪ **Grease**: Dominion (071-416 6060) ◪ **An Inspector Calls**: Aldwych (071-836 6404) . ◪ **Les Misérables**, Palace (071-434 0909) . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (071-494 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (071-836 1443) ☐ **Neville's Island**: Apollo (071-494 5070) ☐ **On Approval** Playhouse (071-839 4401) . ☐ **Once on This Island**: Island (Royalty), (071-494 5090) . ◪ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (071-369 1734) . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**: Strand (071-930 8800) . . ◪ **The Queen and I**: Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . ☐ **She Loves Me**, Savoy (071-836 8888) . ☐ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic (071-928 7616) . ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (071-344 0055) . . ☐ **Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Correct at time of going to press; please check box office.**

NEW RELEASES

◆ **D2: THE MIGHTY DUCKS** (U). Stale adventures of America's ice hockey team in the Junior Goodwill Games. With Emilio Estevez. Director, Sam Weisman. **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Mezzanine** (0426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3303) **Warner West End** (071-439 4343)

◆ **THE SPECIALIST** (15): Sharon Stone hires explosives expert Sylvester Stallone to avenge her parents' murder. Empty concoction that wastes its stars. With James Woods, Eric Roberts, Rod Steiger. Director, Luis Llosa. **MGMs: Fulham Road** ◪ (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (071-727 6705) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332) **Warner West End** (071-439 4343)

CURRENT

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT (15). Two drag queens and a transsexual get stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772)**Screen/Green** (071-226 3520)

◆ **JUNIOR** (PG). Juvenile jokes abound as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant. With Emma Thompson and Danny DeVito. Director, Ivan Reitman. **Empire** ◪ (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **THE PAGEMASTER** (U): Macauley Culkin, in cartoon form, enjoys bland adventures in the world of books. Directors, Joe Johnston and Maurice Hunt. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **PRINCESS CARABOO** (PG). Airy, amusing historical diversion, with Phoebe Cates as the mysterious girl believed to be a Far Eastern princess. With Jim Broadbent, John Lithgow, Stephen Rea, Wendy Hughes. Director, Michael Austin. **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888937) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15). Kieslowski's compelling film about cross-crossing lives, a majestic climax to his trilogy. With Irene Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant. **Chelsea** (071-351 3742) **CurzonMayfair** (071-369 1720) **Lumiar** (071-836 0691) **Phoenix** (081-883 2293) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

TO LIVE (12): This is a simple, enthralling family epic from leading Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Ge You, Gong Li. **Curzon Phoenix** (071-369 1721)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM (071 632 8300 (24hrs) Ticketmaster (fee) 071 344 4444 **The Birmingham Royal Ballet** **THE NUTCRACKER** "Far & away the greatest Nutcracker" Sun Times **UNTIL 7 JANUARY** Today, Thur & Sat 2.30 & 7.30, Tomor & Fri 7.30

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL (071 928 8800 **English National Ballet** **THE NUTCRACKER** 21 Dec - 14 Jan Eves 7.30pm, Mats (Until 2 Jan, 7, 11, 14 Jan) 2.30pm. No perfs Sun

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE (071 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets avail on the day **The Royal Ballet** Tom't, Fri, Sat 7.30 **CINDERELLA** Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** "Stunning" Daily Mail

STATE OPERA IN VIENNA Tickets,Travel & Season Guide (Jan-Jun). **Austria Ost-Live**, 10 Wardour St, London W1V 4BQ. (071 434 7388

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal **SUNSET BOULEVARD** Starring **ELAINE PAIGE** Until 7th Jan except Thurs eves 24-HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL (071 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING (071 413 3302 (bkg fee) **NO BOOKING FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE** Recorded Information 071 379 6884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 **BETTY BUCKLEY** returns on 9 Jan

ALBERY WC2 Tel BO (071 369 1730 Acc (071 344 4444 Grps 413 3321 **PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE** "MAGNIFICENT" D.Exp **& RICHARD JOHNSON** in The Chichester Festival Theatre production of **THE RIVALS** by RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN "A DELIGHT" D.Mail Directed by Richard Cottrell Eves 7.30 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 LIMITED SEASON ENDS 14 JAN

ALDWYCH (071 836 6404/CC 497 9977/ 344 4444 (bkg fee) Group Sales (071 930 6123 **The Royal National Theatre** production of J.B.Priestley's **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** WINNER OF 10 MAJOR AWARDS **LAST 4 WEEKS** MUST END 21 JAN 1995 WORLD TOUR OPENS AUSTRALIA 14 FEB "THEATRICAL PERFECTION" Today Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 5 & 8.15pm, Wed Mat 2.30pm

APOLLO BO/CC 24hrs (071 494 5040/344 4444 (no bkg fee) cc 497 9977 (bkg fee) TONY SLATTERY JONATHAN COY MICHAEL SIBERY PAUL RAFFIELD **NEVILLE'S ISLAND** A COMEDY IN THICK FOG by TIM FRITH "THE MOST DAZZLING PLAY OF OUR TIMES!" D.Mail's Jack Tinker (in E.Std) "Superb" D.Tel "Inspirational" Guardian "VERY, VERY FUNNY!" Today Mon-Fri 8, Sat 8.30 Mats Wed 2.30 & Sat 5 No Perfs 24 Dec

APOLLO VICTORIA cc (071 416 6060 cc 24hrs (071 344 4444/(071 497 9977 Grps (071 416 6075/(071 413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** New production of **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle ride 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £10.00 Extra Mat 29 Dec at 3pm

B.A.C. Lavender Hill BO (071 223 2223 **PETER PAN** - An Edmundian Fantasy. Tue-Sat 7.30, Sun 5.30 Tickets £7.50/£6.00

CALL 071-481 1920 To place your entertainment advert in THE TIMES

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE (071 494 5080/CC 497 9977 (24hrs 7 days no fee) Until 21 Jan RON MOODY NICOLA STAPLETON in Piers Chater-Robinson's **PETER PAN** THE BRITISH MUSICAL Eves (not Mon or Tues) 7.30 Mats 28,31 Dec 2.30

COMEDY BO (071 369 1731 cc 344 4444 Grps 413 3321 **"The Stickey Valentine of the 90's"** Daily Telegraph **STEPHANIE COLE** "Dez...lingly Special" D.Mail **A PASSIONATE WOMAN** "The most ingenious and funny comedy in town" Standard By **KAY MELLOR** Directed by NED SHERRIN Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm Xmas Mats 26 & 28 Dec at 3pm

CRITERION THEATRE (071 839 4488 (071 344 4444/497 9977 ★ COMEDY OF THE YEAR ★ Evening Standard Drama Award **John Sessions** David Bamber **Anthony Calf** Joe Dallas **Roger Frost Kenneth MacDonald** **MY NIGHT WITH REG** by Kevin Elyot Tonight at 8pm "Wonderfully witty and perceptive play...a real must see" Daily Express "One of the funniest plays to be seen" Daily Mail No perf 25, 26 Dec Extra mat 30 Dec 4pm

DOMINION Ticketline 071 416 6060 071 497 9977 (bkg fee), Grps (071 416 6075/413 3321/240 7941 **GREASE** Starring **SHANE RICHIE** and **SONIA** "Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 1995 SOME GREAT SEATS AVAILABLE MON - THUR**

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL 5S cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days (071 494 5000/344 4444/497 9977 Grps 831 8625/494 5454 **MISS SAIGON** "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" **NOW IN ITS 6TH SENSATIONAL YEAR!** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Extra Mat 29 Dec at 3pm **Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS** (071 494 5060 (£9.50 FEE)

DUCHESS cc (071 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) (071-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 **29 Dec 3pm & 8pm. No perf 26 Dec** **"A SAUCY COMEDY"** E. Std **NOW IN ITS 4th YEAR** **DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER** **"Gloriously Outrageous"** T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 836 5122 cc 836 9837/836 3464/344 4444 (24hr 7 days) **Jonathan Harvey's award-winning hit comedy** **BEAUTIFUL THING** "Fresh, funny, delightful" Obs Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri & Sat 6pm & 8.30 **Jan 2 No Performance**

FORTUNE BO & CC (071 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (24hrs No fee) 344 4444 (No fee)/ Grps 413 3321 **"A REAL THRILL OF HORROR"** The Sunday Times **JOHN MORTIMER MICHAEL GRANDAGE** Susan Hill's **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt Mon-Fri 8pm, Mats Tues 3pm & Sat 4pm

GARRICK (071 494 5085 cc (£1 bkg fee) 344 4444 **FASCINATING AIDA** SPECIAL HOLIDAY SEASON **Until 21 Jan** "Sexy, stroppy and wonderfully irreverent" Guardian Eves 8pm Sats 5pm & 8.15pm

GIELGUD 494 5085/344 4444 **THE PETER HALL COMPANY** Gina Bellman Stephen Dillane Alan Doble Michael Pennington Donald Sinden Gwen Taylor **HAMLET** "AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT...Peter Hall's magnificent production is studded with glittering performances. One of the great experiences of the year...YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR MISSING THIS SEARING, THRILLING, MAJESTICAL PERFORMANCE" Sun Times Eves 7.15, Mats Thur & Sat 2pm

HAYMARKET BO/CC (071-930 8800 24 hr cc with fee 344 4444/ 497 9977 Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed, Thur, Sat 2.30 **Dearbhla Molloy Paul Shelley** The National Theatre production of Tom Stoppard's **"MASTERPIECE"** D.Telegraph **ARCADIA** Directed by Trevor Nunn **BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR** Evs Standard Drama Award 1993 Laurence Olivier Award

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC (071 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 bkt surv chg) 071 497 9977 Grps (071 930 6123 **JONATHAN PRYCE** in **LIONEL BART'S OLIVER!** Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 Extra Mats 29 Dec at 2.30

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 071 930 6123 **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Directed by HAROLD PRINCE **NOW BKG TO 9 DEC 1995** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Extra mats on Dec 29 at 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

ISLAND THEATRE Portugal St, off Kingsway WC2. 1 min walk from Holborn Tube. (071 494 5090 cc (071 497 9977 / (071 344 4444 "DANCING UP A STORM ON THIS ISLAND IN THE SUN" D.Mail **ONCE ON THIS ISLAND** "SERIOUSLY ENJOYABLE" Std London's Hottest Event! Mon-Fri 8.00 Wed mat 3.00 Sat 6.00 & 8.45

LYRIC, Shaftesbury Ave BO & cc (071 494 5045 cc 344 4444 All tel fees 24hr/7 days (bkg fee). cc 497 9977/733 1000 Grps 930 6123 **The Joint Never Stops Jumpin** **FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE** **THE OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL** **5TH FIZZING YEAR** Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat at 5 & 8.45

NATIONAL THEATRE BO (071 928 2252 Grps (071 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee (071 497 9977. **OLIVIER** Today 2.00 & 7.15, Tomor 7.15 **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** by Kenneth Grahame adapted by Alan Bennett **LYTTLETON** Tom't 7.30 **OUT OF A HOUSE WALKED A MAN...**Musical scenes from the writings of Daniil Kharms devised by Theatre de Complicite. Tomor 7.30 **THE CHILDREN'S HOUR** Lillian Hellman **COTTESLOE** Today 2.30 & 7.30, Tomor 7.30 **TWO WEEKS WITH THE QUEEN** Adapted by Mary Morris from the novel by Morris Gleitzman

YOUNG VIC (071 928 6363 **GRIMM TALES** 'Wonderful seasonal entertainment'..... TICKETS SELLING FAST!

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO (071 405 0072 CC (071 404 4079 24hr 344 4444/497 9977 Grps 930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL **CATS** Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Extra Mats 26 & 29 Dec at 3pm No Matinee 27 Dec LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Box open at 6.45 **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE**

OLD VIC BO (071 928 7616. Tonight, Fri 7.45, Tomor, Thur 2.30, 7.45 Sat 4.0 & 8.0 **MAUREEN LIPMAN JANET SUZMAN LYNDA BELLINGHAM in THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG** HR Comedy by Wendy Wasserstein Directed by Michael Blakemore Season Extended to February 25

PALACE THEATRE (071-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) (071-344 4444/497 9977 Group Sales (071 930 6123 Groups (071 494 1521 **THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL** **LES MISERABLES** Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Extra Mat 26 Dec at 2.30. Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC (071 867 1044/867 1111/344 4444 (fee) 497 9977 **BEST MUSICAL ALL 4 MAJOR AWARDS WILLY RUSSELL'S** **BLOOD BROTHERS** STEPHANIE LAWRENCE "ASTONISHING" S Express ...brings the audience to its feet, and rooting its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 Xmas Perf: Dec 28, 3.00 Extra Matinee

PICCADILLY (071 369 1734/ (071 344 4444/(071 497 9977 **BEST NEW MUSICAL IN TOWN...BRILLIANT"** M.o.S **ROY ORBISON STORY ONLY THE LONELY** "The Big O comes back to life in a great rock 'n' roll revival" D.Exp "SENSATIONAL...YOU WILL LOVE, I MEAN LOVE THIS" Capital Radio **ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI MAT** Mon-Thu 8, Fri 5.30 & 8.30, Sat 5 & 8.30 **EXTRA XMAS MATS: DEC 28 AT 4.00**

PLAYHOUSE 839 4401/497 9977 THE PETER HALL COMPANY ANNA CARTERET MARTIN JARVIS LOUISE LOMBARD and SIMON WARD "Sir Peter Hall's sparkling revival of **THIS DELICIOUS COMEDY...** a feast of the first order" D.Mail **ON APPROVAL** **"A RATTLING GOOD NIGHT OUT!...WONDERFUL!"** Today Eves 8, Mats Thur 3, Sat 5. **EXTRA XMAS MAT: DEC 28 AT 3** Dine at the Theatre's own Restaurant 930 9445. Pre/After show meal £8.95

PRINCE OF WALES 071 839 5987/836 3464/416 6020/344 4444 cc bkg fee. Grp's 071 413 3321 **BARRY MANILOW'S** **COPACABANA** **"A HUGE HIT"** Ind **The New Musical Starring GARY WILMOT** Eves 8pm. Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Group discounts available **KIDS GO FREE AT MATINEES*** All Mats Throughout December a child enjoys free with each Top Price Ticket * Full Conditions from Box Office **SEATS NOW AVAILABLE**

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) 836 3464 / 071 344 4444 Groups 930 6123. **BEST MUSICAL** Laurence Olivier Awards '93 **ALL SINGING ALL DANCING ALL GERSHWIN** **CRAZY FOR YOU** **"PUTS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS BACK IN THE WEST END IN DAZZLING STYLE"** Mail on Sunday Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00 Extra Matinee 27 Dec at 3pm **GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK**

QUEENS (071 494 5040 (All cc bkg fee) 497 9977/344 4444 **NIGEL HAWTHORNE in** "His finest comic role since Sir Humphrey in Yes, Minister" D.Tel **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE** Mon-Sat 7.30 Mat Sat 2.30 Extra Matinee 26 Dec at 2.30

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN: **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Today 2.00 & 7.15 THE PIT: **NEW ENGLAND** Tom't 7.15 STRATFORD (01789 295623) RST: **TWELFTH NIGHT** Tom't 7.30 SWAN: **CORIOLANUS** Tom't 7.30 TOP: **AFTER EASTER** Tom't 7.30

ROYAL COURT (071-730 1745/2554 cc 836 2428 (24hrs) 836 5122 **THE MAN OF MODE** By George Etherege Ends tom't at 7.30

SADLER'S WELLS (071 278 8916 cc (071 344 4444/071 240 7200 Groups (071 413 3321/071 930 6123 For a limited season until Jan 22 **Roy Hudd Geoffrey Hughes Keith Barron** in ***BABES IN THE WOOD*** The Spectacular Traditional Pantomime 2.30 & 7.00 daily (except certain perfs)

SAVOY (071 836 8888 cc 24hr/ 7 days no bkg fee 497 9977 Grps 413 3321/831 2771 **JOHN GORDON RUTHIE SINCLAIR HENSHALL** **SHE LOVES ME** **"BY FAR THE BEST MUSICAL IN TOWN"** F.T. Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Extra Matinee 27 Dec at 3pm **"PICK UP THE PHONE AND BOOK NOW"** Ind.

ST MARTIN'S 836 1443 (no bkg fee) (071 497 9977 (bkg fee)/Groups (071 312 1894 (no bkg fee) Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 43rd Year of Agatha Christie's **THE MOUSETRAP**

STRAND (071 930 8800/ CC (071 344 4444 (24hrs, 7 days, no fee) **PATRICIA HODGE** in "Magnificent" S.Express **THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE** "Hugely entertaining" D.Tel Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30

VAUDEVILLE BO/CC 836 9987 CC (071 497 9977 **SUE TOWNSEND'S** **THE QUEEN AND I** A RIGHT ROYAL ROMP "An DI night way, it's a Fabulous evening...very funny indeed" Tdy Mon-Sat 7.30. Mats Wed & Sat 3 Extra mat on Dec 30 at 3.00

VICTORIA PALACE Box Off & cc (No bkg fee) (071 834 1317 CC (bkg fee)(071-344 4444/497 9977 Groups (071 413 3321/(071 930 6123 *** BUDDY *** The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun *** BUDDY *** "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel *** BUDDY *** Mon-Thur 8.00 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sat 5.00 & 8.30. Xmas Perfs: Dec 23 5.30 & 8.30 Dec 31 5.00 ONLY Dec 26, 27 & Jan 2 8.00 **ALL SEATS ½ PRICE** FRIDAY 5.30 PERF **5TH FANTASTIC YEAR OVER 2,600 PERFORMANCES Booking to the year 2000!**

WYNDHAMS 369 1736 cc 344 4444 **BEST PLAY** **BEST ACTRESS** Evening Standard Awards 1994 **"ALBEE'S TOWERING NEW MASTERPIECE HAS A CAST FIT FOR THE GODS!"** Times **MAGGIE SMITH FRANCES DE LA TOUR ANASTASIA HILLE EDWARD ALBEE'S** **THREE TALL WOMEN** Directed by ANTHONY PAGE Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm LIMITED SEASON TO 18 MAR '95

DINING OUT

The Night of All Nights

As always, The Bombay Brasserie on New Year's Eve will be a night to remember. The Gala Dinner-Dance features live music, champagne and a magnificent four course dinner - the like of which could only be prepared by the world's most acclaimed Indian restaurant. And when the dining's done, the dancing and celebrations continue - through to the early hours of 1995. The set price, including a half-bottle of champagne, is only £75 per person. On this night, of all nights, there is only one place to be.

The Bombay Brasserie

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LAW

● NEXT WEEK: LEGAL PITFALLS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

David Pannick, QC, reviews a legal year in which all sections of the law have been called into question

A stressful year was had by all

John Walker, a social worker, won damages this year against his former employer, Northumberland County Council, because it had unreasonably exposed him to excessive stress and so had failed to provide a safe system of work. In fact 1994 has generally been a year of stress in the courts — for lawyers, judges and litigants alike.

The Government has not escaped its share: the Court of Appeal held that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, abused prerogative powers by introducing a new scheme for compensating victims of crime; the Divisional Court held that Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, acted unlawfully in authorising aid for the Pergau dam project in Malaysia, and that Home Office procedures for considering alleged miscarriages of justice should involve less secrecy and more disclosure of information.

Sentences also prompted some dissatisfaction. A convicted child molester complained that his sentence of nine years' imprisonment was not long enough. "What sort of sentence is that?" he asked the judge. The woman who abducted baby Abbie Humphries was put on probation for three years, with a condition that she receives psychiatric care. David Astor, former Editor of *The Observer*, described Myra Hindley (serving life imprisonment for her part in the Moors murders) as a "political prisoner".

The police and criminal justice system generally also came in for their share of criticism. Mr Justice Ognall concluded that a police undercover operation was "a blatant attempt to incriminate a suspect by positive and deceptive conduct of the grossest kind", and ordered a not guilty verdict on a man accused of the 1992 murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common.

The European Commission of Human Rights found that Ernest Saunders did not have a fair trial when he was convicted and imprisoned for his conduct during the takeover of Distillers by Guinness. The Crown Prosecution Service decided not to charge Mohamed Al Fayed after the Prime Minister asked that consideration be given to whether improper pressure had been put on the Government in relation to allegations of financial misconduct by ministers.

The jury confirmed its place at the heart of the justice system. A judge discharged a jury and ordered a retrial of a fraud case at Exeter Crown Court because two jurors complained that a fellow juror had fleas. At the Old Bailey, a jury was discharged after one juror was accused of smoking cannabis in the jury room. A man convicted of murder was retried (and again convicted) because the Court of Appeal heard that four members of the original jury had used a Ouija board to try to contact the defendant's victims.

There was a diversity of court rulings spanning sport to pop music, religious affairs to sexual harassment. Paul Elliott lost his claim for compensation for the tackle by Dean Saunders which ended his career as a footballer. George Michael failed to establish that his record contract with Sony was "effectively professional slavery" and so an unreasonable restraint of trade. A minister of the Church of England unsuccessfully tried to have the Archbishop of Canterbury punished for high treason for allowing the ordination of women priests.



Stars of the year: clockwise, O.J. Simpson, John Walker, George Michael, Gillian Taylforth, Judge Owen Stable, QC, and Ernest Saunders, were all under an often unwelcome spotlight

The Court of Appeal decided that planning law prohibited a man from keeping a lifesize model Spitfire on his roof. The Attorney-General obtained an injunction banning *Maxwell: The Musical* two weeks before it was due to open in the West End of London. An ecclesiastical court held that a vicar was entitled to prohibit a family from inscribing a tombstone with the words "dad" and "grandad". A yacht designer and his firm were awarded more than £1.4 million in libel damages for criticism by *Yachting World* of their trimaran.

After a nine-day hearing, an industrial tribunal rejected a claim by an executive with the Child Support Agency that he had been sexually harassed by a female colleague. European Commission Regulation No 2257/94 imposed quality standards for bananas, including a prohibition on "abnormal curvature". In the American state of Virginia, a jury concluded that Lorena Bobbitt was "temporarily insane" and so not guilty of maliciously wounding her husband when she cut off his penis with a kitchen knife as he slept.

EastEnders actress Gillian Taylforth and her fiancé, Geoffrey Knights, lost a libel claim against *The Sun* after the newspaper reported that a police officer saw them having oral sex in their Range Rover on a slip road off the A1 in Hertfordshire. Mr Knights told the jury that he had undone his trousers because he was suffering pain from pancreatitis. As part of the evidence, the jury watched through the windows of a Range Rover in the car park of the Royal Courts of Justice as the plaintiffs and then two *Sun* journalists gave competing presentations of what they said had occurred on the night in question, though in each case without any loosening of trousers.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal against convictions for conspiracy to murder and ordered a retrial (at which the defendants were acquitted) because the trial judge had intervened so frequently and with such hostility during the defendants' evidence that his conduct went "far beyond the bounds of legitimate judicial conduct" and had denied a fair hearing. During his closing speech at an Old Bailey trial, defence counsel accused the judge of using body language to tell the jury that "in his view our case is a load of rubbish", an allegation strongly denied by the judge. John Platts-Mills, QC, wrote to *The Times* to say that in his judgment if Mr Justice Melford Stevenson had fairly tried the murder allegations against the Kray brothers in 1969, in which Platts-Mills appeared for the defence, "both twins might well have got off".

Outside the courts, the Lord Chancellor wrote to circuit judges, stipendiary magistrates and tribunal chairmen warning them that improper conduct, such as drink-driving and actions which cause offence on racial or sexual grounds, could lead to their dismissal for misbehaviour. For the first time, judicial appointments (as district judges and circuit judges) were advertised. A survey revealed that the cost of maintaining some of the Judges' Lodgings in various parts of the country was more than £10,000 for every week that a judge is in residence.

The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, gave a warning that cost and delay were "a cancer eating at the heart" of justice. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, complained that litigation was "beyond the means of all save the very rich or those so poor as to be in the shrinking band eligible for legal aid". The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, appointed Lord Woolf to consider and then recommend improvements to civil procedure.

Technology arrived in the courtroom. A defendant was told by Gloucester magistrates that he risked a prison sentence for contempt when his mobile phone rang while he was in the dock facing a charge of handling stolen goods and he answered the call, whispering "I can't talk now". In the Falkirk Sheriff Court, a lawyer had difficulty switching off his musical socks. A Scottish sheriff reprimanded two defendants for answering questions with "aye" instead of "yes".

Meanwhile, judges made their own headlines. At Snaresbrook Crown Court, Judge Owen Stable, QC, (wrongly described by the *Daily Mail* as a "top judge") told three teenage joyriders that if "this country had not sold itself down the river to Europe" he could and would "order each one of you to be flogged".

By contrast, in the Philippines, a judge proposed that defendants convicted of capital crimes should wrestle with cobras inside an aquarium open to public gaze. A High Court judge ordered a pensioner to pay £4,000 compensation to the burglar he shot on his allotment. A Swedish court ordered a burglar to pay damages of about £250 for shocking a parrot that was now afraid to stay at home alone.

But arguably it was in the United States where the workings of the law attracted most attention. In Los Angeles, O.J.Simpson pleaded "absolutely, 100 per cent not guilty" to the charge of murdering his former wife and her friend. The Idaho Supreme Court decided to allow judges to wear robes in the colour of their choice, and not just the traditional black, "so long as the choices fit the decorum of a courtroom".

The Illinois Supreme Court placed a limit on the length of judgments by lower appellate courts: majority opinions cannot exceed 20 pages, and concurring and dissenting opinions are confined to five pages.

A jury in New Mexico ordered the McDonald's hamburger chain to pay damages of $2.9 million (£1.85 million), later reduced by the judge to $480,000, to an elderly woman who burnt herself with a cup of coffee purchased in the restaurant and which she spilt in her lap while travelling in a car.

In San Francisco, a secretary was awarded $7.1 million against her former employers, the law firm Baker & McKenzie, for sexual harassment during the three months that she worked at their offices. In New York, a man was jailed for 18 months for stealing 65 pairs of shoes owned by Marla Trump, the jury not being persuaded by his defence that he was having a "physical, psychological and sexual relationship" with the footwear. A woman suing President Clinton for alleged sexual harassment filed a sealed affidavit which she claimed described "distinguishing characteristics" of the President's genitals.

The California Court of Appeal overturned an award of damages for fraud in a case brought by a man who claimed that he would never have married his wife if she had not falsely told him that she loved him and found him sexually attractive. The court concluded that "these are matters better left to advice columnists than to judges and juries".

Lawyers throughout the world are hoping that in 1995 litigants will continue to see courts as the forum for the resolution of their problems.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

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Law Report December 27 1994 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Foreign aid for purpose known not to be sound is unlawful

Regina v Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ex parte World Development Movement Ltd

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment November 10]

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs did not have power under section 1(1) of the Overseas Development and Cooperation Act 1980 to grant financial aid for the purpose of promoting development where the provision of aid was for a purpose known by the government not to be sound economic development.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when granting an application by World Development Movement Ltd for judicial review of a decision of the Foreign Secretary made on July 15, 1991 to make a grant under the 1980 Act for funding of the Pergau Dam in Malaysia and a decision of April 29, 1994 by which he refused to withhold outstanding payments made under the 1980 Act to fund the building of the dam.

The argument before the court was whether the grant in question was for the purpose of promoting the development of Malaysia.

Section 1 of the 1980 Act provides: "(1) The secretary of state shall have power, for the purpose of promoting the development or maintaining the economy of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, or the welfare of its people, to furnish any person or body with assistance, whether financial, technical or of any other nature."

Mr Nigel Pleming QC and Mr Owen Davies for World Development; Mr Stephen Richards for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that there were four issues before the court.

First, whether the applicants had standing to make the application. Second, whether disclosure should be ordered of two minutes dated February 5 and 7, 1991 from Sir Tim Lankester, Permanent Secretary in the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) to the Minister of Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker. Third, whether the July decision was unlawful. Fourth, what the appropriate relief was, if any, taking delay into account.

Mr Pleming had submitted that the applicants were a non-partisan pressure group concerned with the misuse of aid money. If there was a public law error, it was difficult to see how else it could be challenged and corrected except by such an application.

The question of lawfulness being for the court, he submitted that the court in its discretion should accept the standing of the World Development Movement. Neither a government nor citizen of a foreign country denied aid was, in practical terms, likely to be able to bring such a challenge.

Mr Richards submitted that with no direct personal interest in funding and in seeking to act in the interest of potential recipients of aid overseas, the applicants' interest was too remote to be sufficient.

In his Lordship's judgment, standing, albeit decided in the exercise of discretion, went to jurisdiction. But there was nothing in *R v Inland Revenue Commissioners, Ex parte National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses Ltd* ([1982] AC 617) to deny standing to the applicants.

The authorities referred to seemed to indicate an increasingly liberal approach to standing on the part of the courts during the last 12 years. It was also clear from *Ex parte National Federation of Self-Employed* that standing should not be treated as a preliminary issue, but had to be taken in the legal and factual context of the whole case. Furthermore the merits of the challenge were an important, if not dominant, factor when considering standing.

In the present case there were a number of significant factors: the importance of vindicating the rule of law; the importance of the issue raised, as in *R v Secretary of State for Social Services and Another, Ex parte Child Poverty Action Group and Others* ([1990] 2 QB 540); the likely absence of any other responsible challenger, as in *Ex parte CPAG* and in *R v HM Inspectorate of Pollution and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Greenpeace* ([1994] 1 WLR 570); the nature of the breach of duty against which relief was sought; and the prominent role of the applicants in giving advice, guidance and assistance with regard to aid.

All, in his Lordship's judgment, pointed in the present case to the conclusion that the applicants did have a sufficient interest within section 31(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and Order 53, rule 3(7) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

It seemed pertinent to add that if the Divisional Court in *R v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Ex parte Rees-Mogg (The Times* July 31, 1993; [1994] 2 WLR 115) was able to accept that the applicant had standing in the light of his "sincere concerns for constitutional issues", *a fortiori*, it seemed that the present applicants with their national and international expertise and interest in promoting and protecting aid to under-developed nations, should have standing.

As to discovery of the two minutes, it was common ground that in judicial review proceedings generally, discovery was not available, as it was in a writ action under Order 24, rules 1 and 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court; that an application could be made under rule 3, which by virtue of Order 24, rule 8 would be refused if discovery was not necessary for disposing of the case fairly, and that the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Islington London Borough Council* (unreported July 19, 1991) was pertinent.

In his Lordship's judgment, although the affidavits of the respondent gave manifestly incomplete summaries of the minutes, and of the advice tendered to the secretary of state, the secretary of state's letter of May 11, 1994 to the foreign affairs committee unambiguously assuring that the summaries were full and accurate, gave in the circumstances, an effective answer to the claim for discovery when taken with the summaries of the minutes exhibited elsewhere in the evidence.

There was no basis for questioning the accuracy of those summaries which in the light of *Ex parte Islington* was a necessary prerequisite for granting discovery of original documents.

Furthermore, the summaries provided the applicants with highly valuable ammunition to which it seemed unlikely that the minutes themselves would materially add.

On the merits of the substantive application Mr Pleming submitted that the power conferred by section 1(1) of the 1980 Act was limited to the purpose imposed by the subsection, namely, in the present circumstances, for promoting development. That was concerned with the authorisation of assistance, not projects.

The correct test was whether the secretary of state decided to furnish the Malaysian government with financial assistance for the purpose of promoting development. Accordingly, he submitted, if aid was to be granted, projects had to be "sound development projects". The Pergau Dam was not.

It was common ground that a power exercised outside the statutory power was unlawful. In the present case Mr Pleming submitted that the power to furnish assistance was not absolute or unfettered, but could only be exercised to advance the purposes for which it was conferred.

He submitted that, in the light of material in the affidavit evidence of the secretary of state, he was motivated by purposes not permitted by the statute, that his decision was made in reliance of irrelevant facts and matters and in defiance of relevant considerations and advice, in particular to the effect that the project was not sound economic development, and was not made for a purpose within section 1. The crucial question in his Lordship's judgment, was whether there was, indeed, a purpose within the Act.

Mr Pleming submitted that the provision of aid for a purpose known by the government not to be sound economic development could not be within section 1 and in the absence of any evidence that financial assistance would be likely to promote development, there was no room for any wider perspective, such as that which the secretary of state referred to having been taken into consideration.

The reason or motive, Mr Pleming submitted, was political or diplomatic, namely that the Prime Minister had given an undertaking in March 1989 that Britain would provide aid and trade provision support and it would be detrimental to British interests to go back on that word. Section 1 conferred no power to make decisions on that basis.

Mr Richards contended that the decision to furnish assistance fell squarely within the power in section 1(1). In particular it was furnished for a purpose specified, namely a developmental purpose, and the Foreign Secretary was entitled to take account of wider political and economic considerations. It was common ground that assistance had to be furnished for the relevant purpose. But, Mr Richards submitted, there was no real distinction between "assistance" and "project" because in the absence or exceptional features, if the project was for promoting development, the assistance must be also.

It was also common ground that a decision maker could take into account political and commercial considerations, provided that there was a sufficient substantive power within section 1 of the Act.

His Lordship was unable to accept Mr Richards' submission that it was the secretary of state's thinking which was determinative of whether the purpose was within the statute. Whatever his intention or purpose might have been, it was a matter for the courts and not for the secretary of state to determine whether, on the evidence before the court, the particular conduct was, or was not, within the statutory purpose.

As to the absence of the word "sound" from section 1(1), it seemed that if Parliament had intended to confer a power to disburse money for unsound developmental purposes, it could have been expected to say so expressly.

His Lordship was comforted in that view by the way in which successive ministers, guidelines, governments and white papers, identified by Mr Pleming, had, over the years and without exception, construed the power as relating to economically sound development. That also, judging from his minutes, was the view of Sir Tim Lankester in 1991 when advising the secretary of state.

Where, as in the present case, the contemplated development was, on the evidence, so economically unsound that there was no economic argument in favour of the case, it was not, in his Lordship's judgment, possible to draw any material distinction between questions of propriety and regularity on the one hand and questions of economy and efficiency of public expenditure on the other. The secretary of state was of course generally speaking, fully entitled when making decisions, to take into account political and economic considerations such as the promotion of regional stability, good government, human rights and British commercial interests.

In the present case, the political impossibility of withdrawing the 1989 offer had been recognised since mid-April 1989, and had there, in 1991, been a development promotion purpose within section 1 of the Act, it would have been entirely proper for the secretary of state to have taken into account also the impact withdrawal would have had both on the UK's credibility as a reliable friend and trading partner and on political and commercial relations with Malaysia.

But for the reasons given, there was in July 1991 no such purpose within the section and it followed that, in his Lordship's judgment, that decision was unlawful.

As to relief, it was not until earlier in 1994 that material matters could be known to the applicants. In any event, the general importance of the matter might itself be a reason for resolving the substantive issues, even where there had been delay: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Ruddock and Others* ([1987] 1 WLR 1482).

His Lordship was entirely satisfied that there was good reason within Order 53, rule 4 for extending time, and that the delay provided no basis in itself for refusing relief.

For the reasons given his Lordship would grant a declaration that the challenged decision of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in July 1991 was unlawful.

Mr Justice Scott Baker agreed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners, Camden; Treasury Solicitor.

Bind-over offers no conclusive defence

Hourihane and Another v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Hoffmann

[Judgment December 19]

The fact that a prosecution culminated in a party being bound over to keep the peace was not, irrespective of other facts, a conclusive defence in law to a claim for malicious prosecution brought by that party, where the sole foundation for the bind-over was the material on which the prosecution had been based.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis from Judge Quentin Edwards who had declined to strike out a claim for malicious prosecution brought in Westminster County Court against him by the plaintiffs, Joanna and Sarah Hourihane.

The plaintiffs had been arrested following an incident outside a public house. Joanna Hourihane was charged with assault contrary to section 51(1) of the Police Act 1964 and her sister, Sarah Hourihane, was charged with disorderly behaviour contrary to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986.

When the matter came before the magistrate both sisters disputed the charges, and subject to the court's approval, the Crown Prosecution Service offered not to proceed if they agreed to be bound over to keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

They each agreed. Each was bound over in her own recognisance of £50 for six months, the charges were dismissed and costs were awarded in their favour from central funds.

Mr Colin Challenger for the commissioner; Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the commissioner had argued that in an action for malicious prosecution it was essential for a plaintiff to show that the prosecution had determined in his favour.

A person who agreed to be bound over must have been taken to have admitted the existence of facts justifying a magistrate in making such an order. Where those facts arose from the same events which gave rise to the charge for which he was prosecuted he could not contend that the outcome of the case had been favourable to him.

The minute of adjudication was said to be conclusive evidence that the proceedings had not terminated in the plaintiffs' favour. But the minute had shown that the specific charges were dismissed after a plea of not guilty had been tendered; that each plaintiff had been bound over in the sum of £50 for six months and that costs out of central funds had been ordered in their favour. Such orders would only be appropriate in the case of successful parties.

The magistrate had made the order binding the plaintiffs over in the exercise of his powers under the Justices of the Peace Act 1361 or at common law. The present proceedings were not brought on complaint to him under section 115 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, a power first introduced by section 25 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act 1879.

Had the plaintiffs' claim been founded on such proceedings and had they been bound over under that section the commissioner's submission would have been correct: see *Basebe v Matthews* ((1867) LR 2 CP 684) and *Everett v Ribbands* ([1952] 2 QB 198).

A record that on the occasion when the charges were dismissed the plaintiffs had been bound over could not of itself bar their claim that the dismissed charges had been maliciously brought. An acquitted defendant might be bound over.

Nor did the fact that an acquitted defendant had been bound over necessarily mean that the justices were satisfied that he had on the occasion in question been guilty of conduct amounting to a breach of the peace.

They need only have had material before them from which they could reasonably have considered that there was a risk of a breach of the peace in the future unless action were taken to prevent it, although they could not act capriciously. They might, however, be satisfied that there was such a risk even though the conduct of an acquitted defendant, if repeated, would not have amounted to a breach of the peace, provided his conduct might stimulate a breach by others.

Where the reason for the justices' action was not obvious they should explain to a defendant the reason why they proposed to bind him over. Here the plaintiffs had argued that the factual basis for the bind-over was never properly established and accordingly that no inference could be drawn that the proceedings against them had terminated unfavourably to them.

Although not significant here, that argument demonstrated the need to establish clearly the basis of any agreement to be bound over as part of a plea bargain which involved the dismissal of charges.

There might be many reasons why a defendant would prefer to agree to be bound over to keep the peace in future than to run the risk of a conviction. A convicted defendant might be bound over as part of his sentence. In that case it would form part of his antecedent records. If he was not convicted but bound over it would not form part of his record.

It was therefore impossible to draw any inference that proceedings had terminated adversely to a defendant from the mere statement that he was bound over or from his agreement to be bound over. Here the court record showed that no evidence was offered against the plaintiffs and the charges were dismissed.

As the issue in the civil proceedings was whether those charges were brought maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause the existence of a record that following dismissal of the charges the plaintiffs had been bound over could not be a ground for striking out their claims. The appeal would accordingly be dismissed.

Lord Justice Hoffmann delivered a concurring judgment.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, concurring, said that the court's power under order 13, rule 5(1)(b) of the County Court Rules 1981 to strike out a claim as scandalous, frivolous or vexatious could not properly be exercised to strike out a claim which was unpromising or unlikely to succeed, only a claim which had to fail.

In a case such as the present that meant a claim which was incurably bad in law. So the question was: Was the fact that a prosecution culminated in a bind-over, irrespective of any other facts, a conclusive defence in law to a claim in malicious prosecution by the party bound over where the sole foundation for the bind over was the material on which the prosecution was founded? To that question his Lordship would answer "No".

On the plaintiffs' pleaded facts the magistrates' court could reasonably have apprehended a future breach of the peace. So there was no reason to doubt that the jurisdiction to bind over had been properly exercised. But no breach of the peace had been established against the plaintiffs and neither had admitted any breach of the peace.

Theoretically in law, if improbably in fact, the prosecution against them for breaching the peace could have been brought without reasonable or probable cause.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police; Magrath & Co.

Using tracing documents in personal claim

Mohamed Omar and Others v Chiiko Aikawa Omar and Others

Before Mr Justice Jacob

[Judgment December 16]

Information and documents produced by a bank pursuant to a court order granted in relation to a tracing claim could be used also for the purposes of mounting personal claims against individuals and pursuing parallel remedies in other jurisdictions.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division, on applications by the plaintiffs, Mohamed, Laila, and Abdel Aziz Omar for further relief against the defendants: Chiiko Aikawa Omar, Chiiko Diana Omar, Coeng Corporation Ltd Inc and Northam Enterprises Inc, two Panamian companies, Mr Marten Neil Furgher and Mr Paul Jempson, directors of Coeng, Mr Efrain Henriquez, Mr Diogenes Arosomena and Mr Jaime Araell, directors of Northam, and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

Miss Elizabeth Jones for the plaintiffs; Ms Clare Reffin for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that Dr Omar, a rich man, had died in 1992 leaving a widow and a mistress. The plaintiffs, representatives of his estate, contended that the assets of Coeng and Northam were effectively part of his estate.

There was *prima facie* evidence that one bearer share in each company had been stolen after his death by Chiiko Aikawa and Chiiko Diana, who, having control, had been divesting each of its assets: for example, Northam had sold Dr Omar's flat, the proceeds finishing in the account of Chiiko Aikawa in a bank in Paris.

On November 10 his Lordship had made against Morgan Guaranty Trust Company a wide-ranging tracing order in relation to Coeng, based on *Bankers Trust Co v Shapira* ([1980] 1 WLR 1275). The bank had complied; but silence still reigned so far as the other defendants were concerned, save that Coeng, served at its registered office in the Isle of Man, had indicated that it did not intend to submit to the jurisdiction.

The plaintiffs now sought the same order in relation to Northam, whose position now appeared indistinguishable from Coeng's. That would be granted. In addition, the plaintiffs sought leave to amend their statement of claim (a) so as to use what the bank had disclosed and (b) to add to it personal claims against Chiiko Aikawa and Chiiko Diana.

Ms Reffin had relied on the apparent narrowness of words used by Lord Denning in the *Bankers Trust* case (at p1282A) as limiting use of the disclosed material to "until trial"; but "following and tracing" must imply completeness up to the establishment of the claim: see the result in *Norwich Pharmacal Co v Customs and Excise Commissioners* ([1974] AC 133 and *Morton-Norwich Products v Intercen* ([1981] FSR 337, 341, 347-350). Here, the use of the discovered documents for a personal claim seemed to his Lordship an entirely legitimate purpose.

Ms Reffin further contended that to give leave was potentially unjust to the bank, in that it would further erode bank/customer confidentiality; while refusal of leave might so weaken the plaintiffs' case that the bank might avoid any more embroilment.

Those points had no weight: as was pointed out in the *Bankers Trust* case, confidentiality was broken when there was fraud; the case even without the discovered material was *prima facie* strong so there would be embroilment anyway. Leave to amend would accordingly be given.

For the same reasons, leave would be granted for the use of the discovered material in litigation in other jurisdictions and for inquiries as to the whereabouts of the shares and the indentity of their present holders.

Finally, the bank had expunged from the documents as disclosed the name of an Irish company, to which it appeared that there had been an intention to transfer Coeng's assets just after Dr Omar's death.

Ms Reffin contended that that company had been no more than a speculative wrongdoer; but it had been formed, had at one time been part of the design and was the defendants' creature. Therefore, in his Lordship's discretion, he would order that its name be disclosed, so that the plaintiffs could follow through their claim to the maximum degree possible.

Solicitors: Farrer & Co; Slaughter & May.

Standard of proof in sexual abuse

In re B (a Minor) (Sexual abuse: Standard of proof)

Where allegations of sexual abuse were made, the standard of proof had to be commensurate with the occasion and proportionate to the subject matter.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Mann) so held on December 6 in allowing an appeal brought by a father against the dismissal by Judge Overend at Truro County Court on April 19, 1994 of his application for contact with two children aged nine and six when there were allegations of sexual abuse of an older child.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that the judge had found that the issue as to whether the sexual abuse had or had not taken place was to be determined according to the standard of the balance of probabilities, unlike criminal proceedings in which the standard of proof was beyond reasonable doubt.

In his Lordship's judgment the judge had inadequately directed himself. He had not been referred to *H v H*; *K v K (Child abuse: Evidence)* ([1990] Fam 86, 121); *Re W (Minors) (Wardship: Evidence)* ([1990] 1 FLR 203) and *Re W (Minors) (Sexual abuse: Standard of proof)* ([1994] 1 FLR 419, 429) which dealt with the standard of proof in such cases.

Even if there was no basis for challenging the finding that the eldest child had been abused it would be surprising to deprive the other children of all contact: see *H v H (Child abuse: Access)* ([1989] 1 FLR 212, 219).

THE TIMES

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Day two of The Times Millennium 2000 offering readers the opportunity to experience what is certain to be the greatest, noisiest, most enjoyable festivities of all time. First prize is a 28 day World Air Cruise for two culminating in New Year 1999 in both Fiji and the Cook Islands to see in the new millennium twice. The trip which takes in Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Tucson and Washington and includes Christmas 1999 in Sydney, helicopter sightseeing over the Fijian Islands and hot-air ballooning over the Arizona desert, would cost £64,000 to book in 1999.

A second prize of a ten-day stay for two in Fiji and the Cook Islands worth up to £7,000 and a third prize of two tickets chosen from any of the millennium party venues available to readers are also on offer.

And should you not be successful in the competition, you can still take part in the festivities by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of deluxe party venues round the world.

The parties are the brain-child of The Millennial Foundation, a non-profit making charity whose worldwide fund raising parties go to help specific local charities. In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help restore the Hermitage and fund the Kirov Ballet.

One of the parties worth considering is at Southfork ranch Dallas, home to JR and Sue Ellen, where 1,200 revellers will be entertained in magnificent texan style as midnight strikes and the sky is lit by a laser and fire-work display to rival Disney. The cost in 1999 would be £3,250 per person but readers can secure places for £2,250 per person which includes a one-week stay from December 28, 1999 at the Four Seasons Las Colinas Resort, offering two championship golf courses and 12 tennis courts.





To enter the competition collect the 18 tokens and answer the 18 questions which will appear between December 26 and Saturday January 14. Send the tokens and answers on a separate sheet of paper, stating in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the celebrations, to: The Times Millennium 2000 Competition, 5 Brittons Court, London EC88 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal Times competition rules apply.

Details of how to book the millennium gala parties, details of which appeared yesterday will appear on Saturday. Further information about the parties can be obtained by writing to: Millennium 2000 Limited, Freepost GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR.

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Head-scratching time for Thatcher's new investors

Come the new year, the 1980's culture of mass share ownership will be infused with a new, if unwanted, element of sophistication. More than 120,000 small shareholders in Northern Electric will be faced with a takeover bid. Trafalgar House's £1.2 billion offer will be the first for a privatised utility, but surely not the last. And the 90,000 investors backing their local supplier could, against the odds, affect the outcome.

For the vast majority of them, the flood of paper, doubtless containing the usual compelling but contradictory arguments from predator and management, each backed by big-name merchant banks, will be a novel experience. This was not what they had in mind when they answered the Government's call to back the private power industry. Nor, probably, did the Government envisage it. But then, neither expected the shares to quadruple in value in the space of four years. From regulatory revolutions to bonanzas for executives, utility privatisation is full of surprises.

You would think that the prospect of realising such handsome gains would be a pleasurable thought to start 1995. A formal takeover bid makes it even more pleasurable by avoiding stockbrokers, commissions and the need to judge the right moment to sell in a moving market. Yet many of the newcomers will find it an unnerving experience.

First, they will be anxious about capital gains tax. Most need not worry on the first bid. But the first is rarely the last unless the bidder says so unequivocally. In this case, small investors will face a bewildering array of alternative offers from Trafalgar, albeit most could safely ignore all but the cash. And there is a fair chance that the bid will be interrupted by a Monopolies Commission investigation. There does not seem much call for one, but Government might be wise to have the issues aired.

More genuinely head-scratching is the mood that hits most small



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

shareholders in most bid targets. Even if they own only a hundred shares out of umpteen million, they feel that the fate of the company, and by extension the well-being of British industry and the economy, hangs on their personal decision to take the money or back the company. Professional investors control about four fifths of Northern Electric, the public less than 20 per cent. In a normal takeover battle, the outcome would therefore be decided by the fund managers. Private investors could safely be ignored. In this case, winning a majority of the shares is not the end of the story for Trafalgar. It has to persuade shareholders to back a change in Northern's articles of association, to remove a clause that limits any shareholder to 15 per cent of its capital. That requires a 75 per cent majority of those who actually bother to vote.

Small investors' votes could count. If Northern's management opposes Trafalgar to the end, it will doubtless suddenly discover the virtue of having all those administratively tedious small investors on its books, and try to mobilise them to vote against Trafalgar. Fund managers will judge purely on money. That is not as simple as it sounds. They could take the price premium and reinvest in other regional electricity companies. But they will also want to establish a high price for any future takeovers.

In making that calculation, they will note that Trafalgar has a special advantage: it has more than £300 million of unrelieved advance corporation tax that could cut the net cost sharply. Small investors might think that, as taxpayers, they would be sharing part of the cost.

Local investors are being offered a cut in their bills, but Northern could doubtless offer as much or more. Far more important is whether the local electricity monopoly should be responsible to local shareholders, rather than become a mere subsidiary of a distant conglomerate. That strikes at the heart of the philosophy behind mass share ownership.

The idea was that investors would identify with industry. For utilities, it is just as important that a separate share quotation makes management answerable to local investors. Shareholders have more clout than a monopoly's customers, however weak shareholder democracy and however strong the monopoly's regulator. Local investors will have to decide how much that is worth in cash.

RADIO CHOICE

In the black, just for fun

In Excess. *Radio 4, 3.30pm.*

Armando Iannucci is Radio 4's unclassifiable resident humorist, operating equally well on both sides of the microphone, performing or producing. Brian King produces him this afternoon, leaving Iannucci free to devote all his time to playing the money game. In a world increasingly dominated by credit facilities, he can theoretically progress from having a debt of one pound to masterminding a financial empire large enough to buy up IBM. Therefore I would not advise you to take him too seriously, particularly when he says that technically, cheques written on a cow, a small boy, and on the side of a loaded gun, are all legal tender.

Pinocchio. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Tina Pepler has made a smashing adaptation of Carlo Collodi's tale of a puppet's progress from waywardness to conformity. Although happy memories of Disney's cartoon are not totally obliterated in Michael Earley's splendid production, Pepler digs more deeply and pins up more moral tracts (Pinocchio: "What's life?" Grillo, his conscience-cricket: "Knowing things when you've forgotten why you wanted to know them."). Updating is kept to a minimum. I wish, though, that when Pinocchio says he is famished, the good fairy could offer to cook him something less hideously 1994-ish than pasta and chips. Mark Burrows, 13, is very good indeed as the stringless wonder, and Peter Howell's music is a treat.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Claire Sturgess with the Early Breakfast Show 7.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Kevin Greening: Including a review of the year's Live Acoustic slots 1.00pm Clive Warren 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session. Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq present highlights of the year's live sessions, including Blur at Aston Villa 10.00 The Story of Pop 11.00 Classic Concerts: *In Concert* celebrates its 25th anniversary Midnight Lisa L'Anson

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 3.00am Alex Lester 6.00 Roger Royle 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.45 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.00pm Lesley Garrett 2.00 Fiona Armstrong 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn in Japan 7.00 I Am Your Actual Quality: A Radio Life of Kenneth Williams (r) 8.00 Ken Bruce's Best of National Music Day 9.00 Cocktails for Two: The link between music and drink. 10.00 Christmas Chokers 10.30 London Calling (2/5) (r) 11.00 On Stage — Michael Ball (r) 12.05am Patrick Lunt with Night Ride 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

Midnight Test Match Special 7.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine 10.05 Dirty News Special Update 11.05 Yule Never Believe This! 11.35 Sporting Partnerships 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck 1.35 Sport on Five. Football: commentary on one Premiership match; Racing from Chepstow and Kempton Park 5.00 Sports Report 5.30 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 sport 7.35 The Tuesday Match 10.05 The Ad Break Christmas Special (r) 11.00 Night Extra 11.35 Yule Never Believe This! (r) Midnight Test Match Special: Australia v England

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 News in German 5.00 Newshour 6.00 News and Features in German 6.30 EuroRegions 7.00 News 7.15 *Just William* 7.30 New Ideas 7.50 Artists in a Nutshell 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Concert Hall 9.00 News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 Family Affair 9.30 On Screen 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Discovery 10.30 Western Music 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 News in German 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Multitrack: Hit List 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 *Just William* 2.45 Renaissance Gold 3.00 News 3.15 A Jolly Good Show 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News and Features in German, including Sports Review of 1994 5.00 News 5.05 Business Report 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News and Features in German 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Megamix 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 News 12.15 Concert Hall 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Crisis in the Family 1.45 Country Style 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Round-up 3.30 Discovery 4.00 Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Jane Markham 9.00 Angela Rippon 12.00 Best of Book Browse 2.00pm Ballet Matinée 4.30 Short Stories 7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert: Polish State PO under Jerzy Swoboda 10.00 Michael Maggio 1.00am Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN

6.00am Paul Coyte 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Gary King 7.00 N.J. Williams 11.00 Nick Abbott 2.00-6.00am Janey Lee Grace

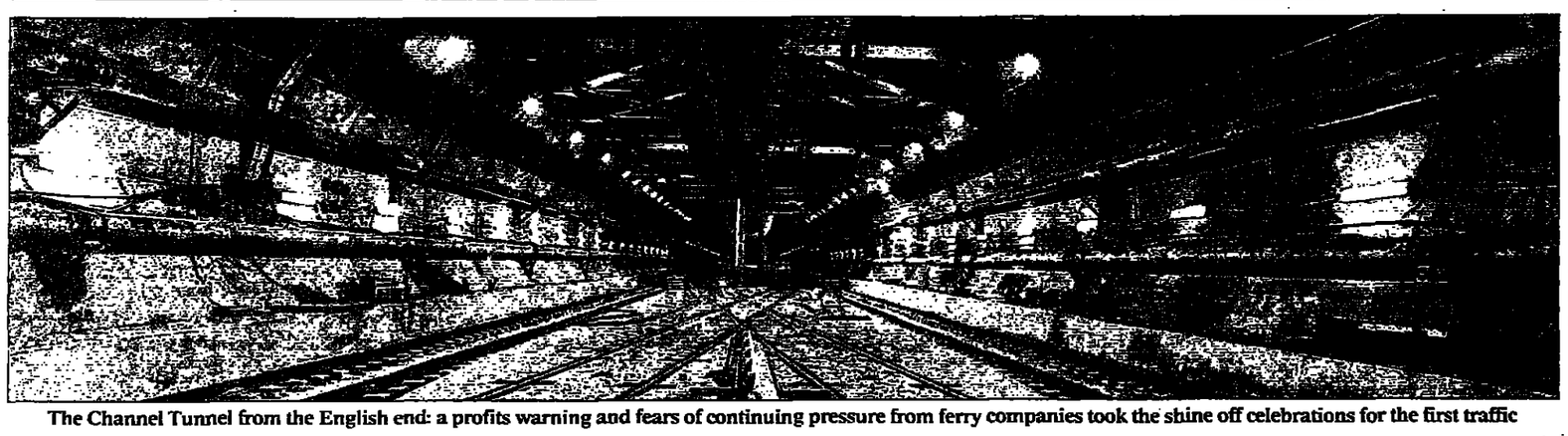
RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Dvořák (Overture: My Home); Telemann (Quartet in G for flute, two violins and continuo); Ibert (Bacchanale); Strauss (Wiegenlied, Op 41 No 1); Wieniawski (Scherzo-tarantelle); 8.32 *Quartet Collection*: Haydn (String Quartet in B minor, Op 33 No 1: Weller Quartet)
9.00 **Composer of the Week**: Rimsky-Korsakov (r)
10.00 **Musical Encounters**, with Edward Blakeman. 10.05 *Artist of the Week*: George Malcolm, organ; Handel (Concerto in A, Op 7 No 2); 10.15 Boesset (Quittez, quittez vos compagne); La Barre (Suite in G minor); Haydn (Cello Concerto No 2 in D); George Malcolm (Variations on a theme of Mozart); Mozart (Symphony No 33 in B flat)
12.00 **Music Restored** (r)
1.00pm **Vienna Philharmonic** under Christoph von Dohnányi; Florin Croitoru, violin. Karl Amadeus Hartmann (Symphony No 2); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 2); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6 in B minor, Pathétique)
2.35 **Paris 1200**: Mark Everist introduces music that would have been heard on the Feast of St John the Evangelist, 800 years ago in Paris
2.55 **Baa Baa Black Sheep**: In a simultaneous broadcast with BBC2, the Chorus of Opera North and the English Northern Philharmonia under Paul Daniel perform Michael Berkeley's opera, to a text by David Malouf after Rudyard Kipling. Recorded at the Grand Theatre, Leeds
5.00 **The Music Machine**: Digital technology in live performances (r)
5.15 **The Changing Orchestra**: Michael Hall introduces recordings made in 1929-92 by the New York Philharmonic
6.45 **Speaking of Chopin... a Pianist's View**: Pianists talk about the challenges and rewards of playing Chopin
7.30 **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** under David Atherton; Margaret Field, soprano, Martin Roscoe, piano. Peter Sculthorpe (Piano Concerto); Henry Gorecki (Symphony No 3, Symphony of the Sorrowful Songs)
9.00 **Samuel Barber**: String Quartet (Emerson Quartet); Songs (Cheryl Studer, soprano, Thomas Hampson, baritone, John Browning, piano)
9.25 **Carl Maria von Weber**: Jubilee Overture, Op 59; Symphony No 1 in C (Vienna Academy under Martin Haselbock)
10.00 **Melanie Armitstead**, soprano, and Scott Mitchell, piano. Songs by Purcell, Britten, Rachmaninov, Fauré, Debussy and Poulenc (r)
10.45 **Book, Music and Lyrics**: Sporting Lives. Robert Cushman presents the first of an eight-part personal view of musicals, with songs from original cast recordings (r)
11.30-12.30am **The BBC Orchestras**: BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping 6.00 News, incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Murderers and Other Friends: John Mortimer reads a second extract 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 **Empire Games**: Craig Anderson explores the sports that were spread throughout the world by the British Empire (r)
9.30 **Alan Bennett's Diaries** (r)
10.00-10.30 **News; Terry Waite at the World Service** (FM only): Terry Waite visits Bush House, home of the BBC World Service, which provided him with a lifeline while he was held hostage in Beirut
10.00 **The Daily Service** (LW only)
10.15 **Children's Radio 4** (LW only): Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White. Final part
10.30 **Photo Appreciated**: Love Letters. The second in a series following six people looking for love in the personal columns (r)
11.00 **News; The Forgotten Cowboy**: Gavin Esler heads west to find out about the black cowboy
11.30 **Murder in Mesopotamia**: Second of a five-part dramatisation of the Agatha Christie novel
12.00 **News; Second to None**: The Locum Vicar. People who do other people's jobs
12.25pm **Hoaxl** Panellists Dulcie Gray, Miles Kington and John Wells try to hoax chairman Tim Brooke-Taylor 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Pinocchio**: See Choice
3.30 **In Excess**: See Choice
4.00 **News 4.05 On the Road Again**: In the second of four programmes, Simon Dring retraces the hippy trail of the 1960s (r)
4.45 **Family Feelings**: The Use of Irony. The second of five stories for Christmas
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock
6.15 **Tides of History**: Kevin Connolly visits the Russian city of Komsomolsk (r)
6.30 **Gush**: The final episode of the comic mini-series by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman
7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**
7.20 **Anthony Clare's Musical Melancholia**: Professor Anthony Clare asks why gloomy music is so popular
8.00 **Correspondents' Lookahead** to 1995
9.00 **In Touch**: For people with a visual handicap
9.30 **Kaleidoscope Feature**: A profile of the folk singer June Tabor 9.58 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Owen Bennett-Jones
10.45 **Book at Bedtime**: The Diamond as Big as the Ritz, by F. Scott Fitzgerald (2/5) (r)
11.00 **The New Europeans**: David Lodge visits dance teacher Ruth Silk in Lisbon (r)
11.30 **Touch of Genius**: The jazz pianist George Shearing talks to June Knox-Mawer
12.00-12.43am **News**, incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast 12.43 As World Service (LW only).

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey



The Channel Tunnel from the English end: a profits warning and fears of continuing pressure from ferry companies took the shine off celebrations for the first traffic

No light at end of market's tunnel

The 'feel-bad' factor dominated 1994, a depressing year for investors, says **Michael Clark**

There are no prizes for guessing the role that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will be playing in this year's City of London pantomime. Investors have pencilled him in for the plum role of Ebenezer Scrooge after his performance in the saga of Britain's economic recovery, which seems to have been running almost as long as *The Mousetrap*.

His Budgets last month were greeted by investors in the Square Mile with a deafening silence. There were a few encouraging comments, such as "it was a fiscally responsible Budget", and "this Budget leaves the market looking long term to the future".

In truth, there was little of substance for investors to cheer, and those who had hoped it might prove to be the catalyst for the seasonal pre-Christmas rally that might take the edge off a sadly disappointing 1994 in the equity market were to be frustrated. Many investors were instead left nursing a "feel-bad" factor and wondering how soon the Bank of England will signal another rise in interest rates.

This was in sharp contrast to the previous year when, after digesting Mr Clarke's proposals, the equity market embarked on one of its most aggressive and lucrative pre-Christmas rallies for many years. In the space of just a month, it climbed almost 8 per cent, with the FT-SE 100 index ending 1993 at 3,418.4.

That late burst of activity provided an opportunity for some of 1993's high-flyers to provide extra returns to those investors who had had the faith to back them. Sadly, that has not been the case throughout a difficult 1994, which has left the index nursing a fall of 10.6 per cent on the year, to 3,056. The only comfort for investors as they look forward to 1995 has been the tentative pick-up in takeover activity towards the close of the year, which may account for at least four takeover targets appearing among our list of top 20 best performers in 1994.

Way out in front, having seen its shares virtually double in price, from 518p to 982p, is Portals, the paper-maker, which has been the subject of two takeover approaches in the past 12 months, albeit from the same predator.

De La Rue, the bank note and cheque book printer, first opened talks with Portals in May. They quickly broke down in acrimony after both sides failed to agree terms. It was not until last month that De La Rue decided to try again and sat down to talk terms with Portals. After weeks of talking, De La Rue agreed to offer the equivalent of £10.50 a share, in a mixture of shares and cash, valuing the entire company at £682 million.

Portals' nearest rival, with a leap in its share price of 83 per cent, to 228p, is the recovery vehicle Berisford International, the former food and commodity trader that almost went to the wall a few years back after borrowings soared.

Under the leadership of Alan Bowkett, chief executive, the group appears to have turned the corner. Several shrewd acquisitions have transformed it into an industrial conglomerate. Berisford paid about £60 million for Magnet, the joinery group, this year, plucking it from the banks. But Mr Bowkett's biggest coup came this month: buying Welbilt, the US commercial kitchen equipment group that supplies fast food chains such as McDonald's, in a deal worth £300 million.

Lagging some way behind the front-runners, in third place, was British Biotechnolgy, with a rise of 64 per cent to 542p. The group had the good sense to take advantage of its strong share price earlier in the year, raising £40 million by way of a rights issue at 400p.

Investors have been buying British Biotechnology in the belief that the company will one day come up with a winner and provide a cure for cancer or Aids. They are certainly not buying the shares on the group's past performance, having seen losses deepen in the first six months of the year, from £8.8 million to £12.6 million.

Elsewhere in the sector, Medeva put up a creditable performance in spite of suffering a setback early in the year after a profits warning.

The other bid targets featuring among the best performers include VSEL — where the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is pondering separate offers from British Aerospace and GEC — and Northern Electric, the target of an unwanted bid from Trafalgar House. Lasmo, the oil group, gained from the bid from Enterprise Oil, even though it failed.

Inevitably, the year produced a crop of casualties. Eurotunnel sprung a leak after completion of the project and the share price sank almost 50 per cent to 278p. But it was not the water swilling about at the bottom of the tunnel that troubled investors; it was the profits warning and worries about a further need for funding, which took much of the shine off the celebrations to mark the first traffic passing through it. No doubt Sir Alastair Morton, joint chairman, will be hoping for a pick-up in the share price during 1995 as traffic volumes improve, but the group still faces tough competition from the ferry operators.

The property and building sectors were the first to slide into recession and are still struggling to emerge from it. The consensus seems to imply that the housing market remains flat, with only a small improvement in property prices. So it should come as no surprise that, of the 20 worst performers, construction companies, building suppliers and property developers account for almost half. They include Persimmon, Wilson Bowden, Berkeley Group, Heywood Williams, Rugby Group, Meyer International, Bradford Property, Bilton and Marley.

Profit warnings generally became a daily occurrence during the year, leaving investors wondering just what form the much heralded economic recovery was taking. Hambros, the merchant bank, duly delivered a sharp drop in profits after issuing a warning just a few weeks earlier.

Christmas spirit may be scarce this year for brokers who held out their hand in vain for year-end bonuses only to receive an Ebenezer Clarke/Scrooge response ringing in their ears: "Christmas! Bah, Humbug!"

Here's hoping that 1995 will be more prosperous than 1994.

WINNERS OF 1994

Name	Shares at 1/1/94	shares at 23/12/94	% change
Portals	518	1020	96.9
Berisford Int	124	228	83.9
British Biotech	330	541	63.9
Aegis Group	177½	291½	66.6
VSEL	883	1358	53.8
Daily Mail & Gen	938	1360	45.0
Cobham	235	336	43.0
Northern Elec	722	1006	39.3
Stakis	82	85	37.0
Securicor Group	1148	1535	33.7
Stagecoach	169	225	33.1
Spirax-Sarco	340	452	32.9
Sema Group	310	408	31.6
Vendome Luxury	387	505	30.5
Lasmo	111	143½	29.3
David S Smith	398	507	27.4
Seeboard	370½	462	24.7
South Western Elec	695	865	24.5
Medeva	137½	169	22.9
WPP Group	89	106	19.1

(Prices, in pence as at the close of business on December 23 1994)

LOSERS OF 1994

Name	Shares at 1/1/94	shares at 23/12/94	% change
Bilton	330	246	-25.5
Bradford Prop	282	184	-27.0
Marley	187	135	-27.8
NFC	234	167	-28.6
Rugby Group	168½	120	-28.8
London International	121½	85	-30.0
Fine Art Dev	519	357	-31.2
Albert Fisher	66	45	-31.8
AAH	482	336	-30.3
Meyer International	515	358	-30.5
Lex Service	449	300	-33.2
Heywood Williams	407	270	-33.7
Senior Engineering	124	82	-33.9
Dwons	285	188	-34.0
Persimmon	310	201	-35.2
Wilson Bowden	508	324	-36.2
Berkeley Group	553	348	-37.1
Willis Corroon	225½	140	-37.9
Hambros	393	228	-42.0
Eurotunnel	544	283	-48.0

Statistics supplied by Datastream

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

CLAVUS
(c) A pain in the forehead, as though a nail were being driven into it, associated with hysteria. "When Thomas complained that he was suffering from a clavus, a fixed pain in the forehead. Richard said he ought to cover it with his thumb."

FARTHINGALE
(c) A seventeenth-century chair with a wide seat, a low straight back, and no arms. "Farthingale chairs were designed for ladies wearing wide skirts."

GROISE
(c) Public school slang for a swot or one who curries favour. "Henry was a history scholar, a horrid little groise, who knew jolly well that he would have to groise a lot harder if he wanted to come out tops."

ANAGLYPTA
(a) A special type of thick embossed wallpaper. 1934, *The Times*, February 15th: "Has he not, paperhanger and decorator too, hung lincrusta and anaglypta, as well as other papers difficult to hang?"

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

SFO's winter of discontent

ON TOP of the Guinness embarrassment, the Serious Fraud Office is suffering a Christmas exodus. No fewer than four staffers have decided to depart for new climes. Worryingly for the media, the leavers include Claire Gilbert, the popular press officer, who will be joining Penny Phillips in the press office at Ernst & Young in the new year. Gilbert, 28, leaves after more than three years of "no comments" — the SFO's standard and fail-safe response to any press query. She survived two instances of being trapped in the SFO's lift — once for 45 minutes — and was regularly telephoned at home after midnight by night editors chasing leads. Gilbert was seen carousing with senior police officers at the SFO's local last week together with a colleague, Kevin Dunnett, who is leaving the para-legal department to try his hand teaching English in Singapore. He follows Peter Lynn, 31, who has joined the General Medical Council. Last out of the door is Bill Waite, 35, a senior lawyer and veteran of cases including Wallace Smith Trust and Autocam. Waite is joining Kroll Associates, the investigations agency, for a reputed 70 per cent rise in salary.

AN ANTIQUE furniture shop in Poole, run by Carole Holding-Parsons, calls itself "Stocks and Chairs" — a name suggested by her husband, Alistair, who was a stockbroker for 20 years.

Running it off

WHILE thousands of Lloyd's names around the country relaxed after a good Christmas lunch, Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, was pounding the streets. No reclining in a comfortable armchair for him. Middleton will be indulging in some heavy training in preparation for the London Marathon on April 2. Given that many people run the marathon to raise money for charity, is the Lloyd's man planning to run for names...or away from them, I wonder.

SEEN on the menu of a Chinese restaurant in Devon: Christmas Mandarin Peking Duck (takes 24 hours to prepare). Please call two hours in advance.

Cut-price cover

THE Office of Fair Trading's attempt to cut the huge profits made on extended warranties on electrical goods, launched last week after a ten-month inquiry, looks as though it is already beginning to bite. A customer at one of Dixons' West End shops braved the Christmas rush for a £300 music centre, and was immediately offered one of these highly lucrative deals which would insure him against the goods failing for an additional three years. The cost was £65. He refused. The assistant immediately went to £55. He refused again, saying he had read in the press that extended warranties were a rip-off. "£50?", she shot back in desperation. The message is clear — it pays to shop around.



SIGN in pawnbroker's window: Borrow early for 1995.

Gut reaction

FROM a Polish tourist leaflet seen in Warsaw. "As for the tripe served you at the Metropol Hotel, you will sing its praises to your grandchildren on your death-bed.".

COLIN CAMPBELL

هذا من الأصل

Potter by numbers, with only two to come

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Take one fantasy woman, one ordinary joe — a solicitor, crime-writer or song sheet salesman will do — mix with a generous helping of unromantic sex and a couple of grisly murders. Raise the temperature thoroughly for 90 minutes and garnish with some finely chopped memories and a few old songs. *Et voilà*, ladies and gentleman, the perfect Dennis Potter play.

Am I being unfair to the man whose last interview was undoubtedly the most powerful television of 1994 and whose name will rightly be writ large in those year-end lists of those who are no longer with us? Well, we shall see.

In 1996 the BBC and Channel 4 will, as Potter requested, join forces to bring us his two last works, *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*. Only then will we discover if Potter succeeded in his stated aim of writing his finest work before that last deadline. But in the past ten days the two channels have provided less certain tributes, first in the shape of the inaccessible *Secret Friends* and second in last night's **Midnight Movie** (BBC 2).

The good news for those already making dates in their 1996 diaries is that of the two, *Midnight Movie* proved far the superior. Renny Rye, who directed it and will direct both *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, already had *Lipstick on Your Collar* under his belt and now looks completely at home with the Potter style. The one problem he faces, is that so are we. *Midnight Movie* was unmistakable Potter, almost to the point of caricature — the pasticheur pastiched.

Its writer, I suspect, would have enjoyed being given the Boxing Night slot for this tale of memory and movies. "Do you know what they're showing tonight on the BBC?" Henry Harris, the Surrey solicitor, asks his film producer client, James Boyce. "Don't tell me," the giant American sneers: "snooker." The point was well made — whatever its shortcomings, *Midnight Movie* stood out like a welcome British beacon amid a ghastly Yuletide sea, not of snooker but of American movies.

Potter would also have enjoyed the family theatre that his inevitably shocking tale must have produced in the nation's crowded living rooms. The squirming on the sofa, as Amber (Louise Germaine) showed dads something really quite unusual that can be done with a set of library steps, a mirror and a little imagination. The hurried searching for the remote control, as Harris (Jim Carter) gave green-fingered mums some new ideas on aerating the lawn. The sudden hunt for that unread newspaper article, as he asked his matronly secretary what she knows about nymphomania. "Well..." she paused, sending a million newspapers nervously aflutter: "I think it's a bit like me and a box of chocolates." *Phew*, perhaps that article wasn't *quite* so interesting.

The seasonal relevance of *Midnight Movie* wasn't immediately obvious, although there were one or two possible clues. Amber, for instance, appeared to be doing her Boxing Day duty by wearing all the presents that her sugar daddy husband had given her. If she wasn't waltzing around the sitting room in a scarlet halter neck dress and matching stilettos, she was minnying around the hall in crimson silk dressing gown and black Janet Regers. Throughout, her face wore a haunted, worried expression. Potter's script said she was haunted by the ghost of her dead, film-star mother, Mandy Mason. To me, she looked like a woman worrying whether the shop would change it for something warm, white and winceyette.

Given the constraints of playing a Potter fantasy woman (two fantasy women in this case), Louise Germaine acquitted herself well. Jim Carter faced less of a challenge with Harris, a man of quiet habits — tea at 11 o'clock prompt, a small whisky at quarter-to-six — but with an unhealthy interest in B-movies starring Mandy Mason. Carter, however, proved a worthy successor to the likes of Bob Hoskins and Michael Gambon, bringing real humanity to the part of a man forced into a mid-life (and potentially end-of-life) crisis by a close encounter on the croquet lawn. Brian Dennehy also excelled as Boyce, who as well as marrying Amber may, it turned out, have killed her mother, Mandy.

May? Well by playing his normal tricks with memory and time, you were left with all the normal post-Potter questions, following a conclusion that saw Harris finally getting if not his dream girl, then her daughter. When did it happen? Did it happen at all? Who knows and who cares? Well, I do. For one thing is sadly certain. Barring two events in 1996, it will not be happening again.

Andrew Marshall may not be Dennis Potter, but he writes a nice comedy script as the popularity of **2 Point 4 Children** (BBC 1) reveals. But perhaps his mind was on other things when he sat down for the ten minutes, or whatever it was, it took him to knock off this Christmas episode.

The last series showed an alarming lurch towards the surreal, at the expense of the domestic comedy that Bill and Ben Porter's household had been generating up until then. Apart from one nice line about a couple who last had sex in 1959 ("Macmillan told them they'd never had it so good, so they didn't try it again"), this episode was not so much surreal, as silly. If the arrival of three American marines wearing silver-lamé jockstraps wasn't silly enough (courtesy of a computer Internet that had confused Bill Porter for Bill Clinton) the whole episode was wrapped up five minutes early to go into a completely unrelated song and dance routine. Still, it was nice to see Belinda Lang looking drop-dead glamorous for a change.

BBC1

7.00 News, regional news and weather (9521060)

7.10-1.00 Children's BBC beginning with **Secret Life of Toys**. Animation (r) (9541824) **7.25 Felix the Cat** (9546379) **7.40 Marlene Marlowe Investigates** (r) (9777602)

8.00 News, regional news and weather (7509176)

8.10 The Adventures of Skippy (s) (4522669) **8.35 Swat Kats** (r) (s) (9299737)

9.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (5288534)

9.05 Bucky O'Hare (r) (8912824) **9.30 Why Don't You...?** (s) (75992) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (1536756) **10.20 William's Wish Wellingtons** (s) (2957553) **10.35 Joe 90**. Puppet adventures (2618244)

11.00 FILM: One of our Dinosaurs is Missing (1975) starring Peter Ustinov, Helen Hayes and Clive Revill. A Disney comedy directed by Robert Stevenson. (Ceefax) (10282)

12.30 The Flintstones. (Ceefax) (8764973) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (14099824)

1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (24529008)

1.05 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (27946640)

1.25 The Nutcracker. Peter Wright's production of the classic Christmas ballet performed by the Birmingham Royal Ballet with Russian star Irek Mukhamedov and the Japanese ballerina Miyako Yoshida. Barry Wordsworth conducts the Royal Ballet Sinfonia (s) (90543973)

3.05 Bugs Bunny. Cartoon fun (4054263)

3.25 World Cup '94. Highlights (1082911)

4.35 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. (Ceefax) (s) (7317379)

5.20 News (Ceefax) and weather (3403718)

5.35 Beatrix Potter: The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends. *The Tale of Pigling Bland* — the first of four animated Beatrix Potter stories. (Ceefax) (521805)

6.00 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (970398)

6.20 The Brittas Empire. A special edition of the leisure centre comedy — set in 2019. (Ceefax) (s) (883398)

6.50 Big Break in Wonderland. Jim Davidson's snooker game show. (Ceefax) (s) (445843)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (398)



Glenne Headly and Warren Beatty (8.00pm)

8.00 FILM: Dick Tracy (1990) starring Warren Beatty, Madonna and Glenne Headly. Screen version of the Chester Gould comic strip detective. Directed by Warren Beatty. (Ceefax) (s) (17567621)

9.40 News (Ceefax) and weather (479350)

10.00 CHOICE **Carrott-U-Like** (s) (173602)

10.50 Films Of The Year With Barry Norman. (Ceefax) (s) (435114)

11.35 U2 — Zoomeranged. The rock band recorded in concert at Sydney Football Stadium (s) (243485)

1.05am FILM: My Geisha (1962) starring Shirley MacLaine, Yves Montand and Edward G. Robinson. A romantic comedy about a film director's wife who resorts to subterfuge in order to appear in his version of *Madam Butterfly*. Directed by Jack Cardiff (229041)

3.00 Weather (94591596)

BBC2

8.10 FILM: Kim (1950) staring Errol Flynn and Dean Stockwell. Spectacular adventure yarn, based on the novel by Rudyard Kipling. Directed by Victor Saville. (Ceefax) (73930814)

10.00 The American Civil War. The first of Ken Burn's acclaimed five-part history (revised r) (23569973)

11.40 British Touring Car Championship. Highlights from the 1994 season (8469602)

12.40 Racing From Chepstow. The Finale Junior Hurdle (1.00), the Christmas Cracker Handicap Chase (1.30), the Welsh Grand National (2.05); and the Festive Spirit Novice Chase (2.35) (60332640)

3.00 Baa Baa Black Sheep. Michael Berkeley's acclaimed three-act opera, performed by Opera North. Based on an autobiographical story by Rudyard Kipling, the work was jointly commissioned by the Cheltenham International Festival of Music, BBC Television and the Arts Council of Great Britain, and first performed at the Cheltenham Festival in July 1993. This performance was filmed at Opera North's home theatre, the Grand Theatre, Leeds, with the English Northern Philharmonia conducted by Paul Daniel. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (s) (99805)

5.00 Verdi — A Life In Two Parts. Conductor Mark Elder with the first of two films about the life and music of Giuseppe Verdi. The words of Verdi and his wife are read by Bob Peck and Juliet Stevenson (s) (6485)

6.00 CHOICE **Tyto the Barn Owl**. (Ceefax) (s) (663992)

6.50 CHOICE **Flanders and Swann**. (Ceefax) (443485)

7.30 Video Nation Review Of the Year (58756)

9.00 Fry and Laurie Host a Christmas Night With the Stars. Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie introduce comedy and music. The guests include Reeves and Mortimer, Alexei Sayle, Alan Partridge and Sandie Shaw. (Ceefax) (s) (1688824)



Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis (10.15pm)

10.15 FILM: Thelma and Louise (1991) starring Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis and Harvey Keitel. A road movie thriller about two housewives whose weekend break from everyday drudgery turns into a mythic journey of liberation after stopping at a roadside diner. Directed by Ridley Scott. (Ceefax) (s) (65795992)

12.20am FILM: The House On Haunted Hill (1958, b/w) starring Vincent Price. Horror movie about a wealthy couple who rent a spooky mansion, the scene of seven murders, for one night with the intention of holding a "haunted house" party. Directed by William Castle. (Ceefax) (8144799)

1.35 Weather (7439461)

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CHOICE

Black Christmas: Baby Fathers
Channel 4, 9.00pm

This absorbing programme considers the role of the family courts of Jamaica as they resolve disputes over child maintenance and welfare. Some 86 per cent of children in the country are born outside marriage and the cases often revolve around blood tests to establish who is the father. The programme suggests that Jamaica's history of slavery means that in the past men did not have responsibility towards their offspring because the children were owned by their white masters. It is perhaps a legacy of that situation that today some Jamaican fathers "love at a distance and support at a further distance" as one advocate puts it. Three graphic cases are followed by the cameras: a father is accused of failing to keep up with maintenance payments; a man claims the children he has helped bring up are not his own; and a woman disputes a man's claim to be the father of her little girl.

Tyto the Barn Owl
BBC2, 6.00pm

The fraught life of a barn owl and its brood is captured on film in Simon King's exquisite animal drama. Despite the anthropomorphic naming of the birds, the accent is on survival rather than sentimentality as we follow the fortunes of Tyto's entire family, witnessing scenes such as the youngsters' confrontation with a tawny owl and the near drowning of Tyto's mate, Alba. There are also encounters with foxes, humans and, harrowingly, a passing car. For King, one of the great fascinations of the project was watching the transformation of the chicks from "ugly bundles of skin and fluff into one of the most beautiful creatures on earth" and some of the most arresting sequences linger on the spectral barn owl in flight.



The glorious Flanders and Swann (BBC2, 6.50pm)

Flanders and Swann
BBC2, 6.50pm

After Donald Swann's death this year, John Amis presents an enjoyable celebration of the duo whose "air of gentle chaos and casual improvisation" belied the precision of Swann's music and Flanders's unforgettable lyrics. At their most famous in the 1950s and perhaps best known for their hippos wallowing in "mud, mud, glorious mud", the pair also wrote about ostriches and gnus as well as the all-too-fallible human species. The film includes recently discovered archive footage showing them in London and on Broadway, where the Americans lapped up the British jokes and even put up with Flanders witticisms such as: "Always remember that if it hadn't been for the English, you'd all be Spanish."

Carrott-U-Like
BBC1, 10.00pm

Comedian Jasper Carrott is at his best when offering well-observed jokes on subjects close to his heart — acne and Birmingham City Football Club served him well in the early days. The fact that this is his first stand-up comedy show in two years is a good sign, suggesting that he has had ample time to come up with entertaining new material. Intercut with his monologues are sketches featuring guests including Sara Crowe and Ann Bryson from the Philadelphia cheese ads and his customary spoofs of contemporary commercials.

Stephanie Billen

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV. Begins with **6.10 Features Special 7.00 News** and sport **7.30 Barney and Friends 8.40 Tom and Jerry Kids 8.55 Galaxy High School** (6615756)

9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man (8927756) **9.50 James Bond Junior** (r) (1746992)

10.15 FILM: The Little Kidnappers (1990) starring Charlton Heston. A pair of Scottish orphans are branded kidnappers when they discover an abandoned baby. Directed by Donald Shebib (23575534)

12.00 Home and Away. (Teletext) (63669)

12.30pm News (Teletext) and weather (96559398)

12.40 Emmerdale (r). (Teletext) (8778176)

1.10 The Magic of David Copperfield. More mesmerising illusions (3908242)

2.10 Warner Brothers Cartoon (20091602)

2.15 FILM: MacKenna's Gold (1969) starring Gregory Peck, Omar Sharif and Telly Savalas. When a sheriff acquires a map telling of untold wealth, he sets out to trace the legendary lost canyon, avoiding the ruthless fortune hunters he has attracted. Directed by J. Lee Thompson (51400404)

4.40 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (8987282)

5.10 News (Teletext) and weather (3492602)

5.25 FILM: Arthur 2: On the Rocks (1988) starring Dudley Moore and Liza Minnelli. Four years have passed since the tipsy millionaire rode off into the future with his inheritance and his true love. Arthur and Linda are now married, but she reveals that she is unable to have children and wants to adopt. Directed by Bud Yorkin. (Teletext) (12350805)

7.30 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (466)

8.00 The Bill: Dearly Departed. (Teletext) (8260)



Tom Hanks and his best friend (8.30pm)

8.30 FILM: Turner and Hooch (1989) starring Tom Hanks as an obsessively neat policeman who is forced to team up with the only witness to a murder, a flea-ridden dog. Directed by Roger Spottiswoode (s) (16671027)

10.20 Late News (Teletext) and weather (975244)

10.35 FILM: Navy SEALS (1990) starring Charlie Sheen and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer. The American Navy's elite commando unit sets out to destroy a cache of stolen weapons in the Middle East. Directed by Lewis Teague (86222805)

12.35am The Equalizer. The pilot episode of the series starring Edward Woodward (6480480)

1.30 FILM: Lost Horizon (1973) starring Peter Finch, Michael York and John Gielgud. The survivors of a plane crash discover the mystical Valley of the Blue Moon and a place known as Shangri-La. Directed by Charles Jarrott (95940867)

3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (r) (66718480)

4.25 FILM: Mystery at Castle House (1981). Three youngsters exploring a deserted mansion become involved in a series of adventures when they discovers a dark labyrinth of cellars. Directed by Peter Maxwell (7240867)

5.45 Cartoons (8047190)

5.55 ITN Morning News (6795312). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.40am Terrytoons

7.00 Stunt Dawgs (95805) **7.30 Pro-Stars** (r) (31440)

8.00 The Big Breakfast (64447)

10.00 The Morning Line. A preview of today's racing action from Kempton Park (67534)

10.30 Batman. Penguin and Joker have hidden in the Batmobile intending to infiltrate the Batcave. (Teletext) (30331)

11.00 Tintin (r) (1599)

11.30 Wet Wet Wet — Live at the Royal Albert Hall. The Scottish rock stars in concert (r) (s) (7130176)

12.25pm Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park introduced by Brough Scott. Includes races at **12.45, 1.15, 1.45** and **2.20** (89046973)

3.15 As It Happened: The Day They Landed on the Moon. This programme recreates the atmosphere of this historic moment, using unseen amateur footage inside the launch pad and spectacular NASA footage of the landing and Neil Armstrong's historic step (r). (Teletext) (s) (97883282)

5.00 The Mousehole Cat. Moving tale based on the original drawings by Nicola Bayley. Siân Phillips narrates the story and the music is by Ian Hughes (s) (9718)

5.30 News Summary and weather (585244)

5.35 Gamesmaster with Dominik Diamond and Patrick Moore (s) (251534)

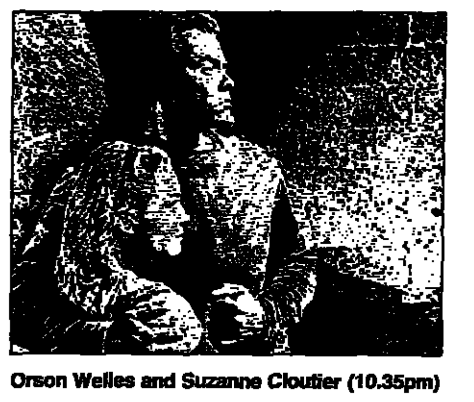
6.05 FILM: The Adventures of Baron Munchausen. Fantasy adventure about the infamous storyteller played by John Neville. With Eric Idle, Sarah Polley, Oliver Reed, Jonathan Pryce, Bill Paterson, Alison Steadman, Sting and Robin Williams. Directed by Terry Gilliam (96486756)

8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (7737)

9.00 CHOICE **Black Christmas: Baby Fathers** (249718)

9.55 Black Christmas: Shooting Stars with bass player Chi Chi Nwanoku (s) (363796)

10.05 One Night Stand: Ellen Degeneres. The free-spirited comedy actress shares her wry observations about modern love in her one woman show filmed at the Old Vic Theatre in Chicago (r). (Teletext) (388669)



Orson Welles and Suzanne Cloutier (10.35pm)

10.35 FILM: Othello (1952, b/w) Orson Welles starred in and directed this classic film adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy, which was four years in the making. It has now been restored and includes a complete re-recording of the soundtrack. With Suzanne Cloutier and Michael MacLiammoir. (Teletext) (s) (63317447)

12.20am South Central: Dog. Tasha's 14-year-old friend makes repeated advances towards Andre; and the employees at the co-op almost revolt when Bobby keeps them working long hours without a break (9461374)

12.45 FILM: Rouge (1987). The *Chinese Ghost Stories* season continues with this romantic fantasy starring Anita Mui as a courtesan who returns as a ghost after 43 years to seek the spectre of her one-time lover. Directed by Stanley Kwan. In Cantonese with English subtitles (605312). Ends at **2.25**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 9.50am-10.15 C.O.P.S (1746992) **12.35** Film: The Kremlin Letter (Richard Boone, Bibi Anderson, Max Von Sydow) (34531225) **2.45** The Last Five Minutes (372190) **4.15** Get Stuffed Christmas Special (11052645) **4.40** America's Top Ten (18949041) **5.05-5.55** The New Scooby Doo Movie (9269225)

BORDER
As London except: 9.50am C.O.P.S (1746992) **10.15-12.00am** Film: The Little Kidnappers (Charlton Heston, Bruce Greenwood, Leo Wheatley) (23575534) **12.40pm** Emmerdale (8778176) **1.10** Scalawag (99787756) **2.55** Disney's Not Quite Human (33988027) **4.40** Home and Away (8987282) **5.10** ITN News; Weather (3492602) **5.25** Arthur 2: On the Rocks (12350805) **7.30-8.00** Emmerdale (466) **12.35am** Film: The Kremlin Letter (Richard Boone, Bibi Anderson, Max Von Sydow) (34531225) **2.45** The Last Five Minutes (372190) **4.15** Get Stuffed Christmas Special (11052645) **4.40** America's Top Ten (18949041) **5.05-5.55** The New Scooby Doo Movie - The Lochness Mess (9269225)

CENTRAL
As London except: 9.50-10.15 C.O.P.S (1746992) **2.10pm-4.40** Film: Cast a Giant Shadow (Kirk Douglas, Angie Dickinson) (47385640) **5.45am-5.55** Cartoon Time (8047190)

GRANADA
As London except: 1.10 Scalawag (99787756) **2.55-4.40** Disney's Not Quite Human (33988027)

HTV WEST
As London except: 9.25 Scooby Doo - Where are You? (8927756) **9.50-10.15** C.O.P.S (1746992) **2.10pm-4.40** Cast a Giant Shadow (47385640) **5.10-5.25** ITN News (3492602) **12.35am** Film: The Kremlin Letter (Richard Boone, Orson Welles, Bibi Andersson) (34531225) **2.45** The Last Five Minutes (372190) **4.15** Get Stuffed Christmas Special (11052645) **4.40** America's Top Ten (18949041) **5.05-5.55** The New Scooby Doo Movie - The Lochness Mess (9269225)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 5.10pm-5.25 ITN News; Weather (3492602)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 9.50am-10.15 C.O.P.S (1746992)

TYNE TEES
As London except: 9.50-10.15 C.O.P.S (1746992) **5.10pm-5.25** ITN Early Evening News; Weather (3492602) **12.35am-1.30** Highway to Heaven (6480480) **3.55-4.25** Stuntmasters (66718480)

ULSTER
As London except: 2.10 Cartoon Time (16926008) **2.25** Superman II (14254485) **4.40-5.10** Home and Away (8987282) **5.25** UTV Live News and Weather (8626240) **5.30** Hot Pursuits Caribbean Christmas (319) **6.00** Police Academy 3 - Back in Training (39398)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 9.50-10.15 C.O.P.S (1746992) **2.10pm-2.15** Foghorn Leghorn (20091602) **12.35am** The Kremlin Letter (34531225) **2.45** The Last Five Minutes (372190) **4.15** Get Stuffed Christmas Special (11052645) **4.40** America's Top Ten (18949041) **5.05-5.55** The New Scooby Doo Movie - The Lochness Mess (9269225)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 9.50-10.15 C.O.P.S (1746992) **5.10pm-5.25** ITN Early Evening News; Weather (3492602) **12.35am-1.30** Highway to Heaven (6480480) **3.55-4.25** Stuntmasters (66718480)

S4C
Starts: 7.05 Stunt Dawgs (6398350) **7.35** Prostars (8970114) **8.00** The Big Breakfast (64447) **10.00** The Morning Line (67534) **10.30** Yellow Submarine (59534) **12.00pm** Slot Meithrin (6992843) **12.25** Channel 4 Racing From Kempton Park And Leopardstown (89046973) **3.15** The Four Horsemen Of Apocalypse (26865114) **5.45** The Dingles (130802) **6.00** Newyddion 6/ News (234008) **6.10** 5 Pump 5 - Uned 5 (654244) **7.00** Penblwydd Hapus (2282) **7.30** Teledu Ddoe (42805) **8.30** Newyddion/News (172669) **8.45** Teledu Ddoe (94569602) **10.30** Brookside (31060) **11.00** Dim Tatod (81963) **12.00am** Caddyshack (898747)

RTE1
Starts: 9.05 Film: Road to Singapore (62682843) **10.35** Film: The Count of Monte Cristo (72422602) **12.35** Young Soloists' Concert (3926621) **1.10** News (21462485) **1.15** The Big Race (28016244) **3.30** Cartoon Time (40616534) **3.45** Film: Carousel (17757398) **6.00** The Angelus (1176337) **6.01** Six-one (4540447) **6.15** The Ronn Lucas Show (2693669) **6.45** Fair City (2665640) **7.15** Film: The Bullion Boys (67973756) **9.00** The Nine O'clock News and weather (1018824) **9.15** All Human (6718621) **10.15** Film: The Deadly Art of Illusion (4075718) **12.00** Late News (7158139) **12.01** Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (31731992) **8.45** Cartoons (5427089) **9.30** Card Sharks (19350) **10.00** Concentration (1482114) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (7992195) **10.30** Candid Camera (69621) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (50756) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (70973) **12.30pm** E Street (20466) **1.00** Falcon Crest (18621) **2.00** The Far Pavilions (28669) **3.00** The Dukes of Hazzard (3708640) **3.50** The DJ Kat Show (5090008) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6263) **6.00** Gamesworld (9466) **6.30** Blockbusters (4878) **7.00** E Street (7992) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9602) **8.00** The Bible: Genesis — The Creation and the Flood. Episode one of a 20-part epic series (57534) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (76669) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (299534) **11.45** Chances (123756) **12.45am** Barney Miller (51645) **1.15-1.45** Night Court (81886)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (7601331) **9.30** Fashion TV (48640) **10.30** ABC Nightline (87263) **11.00** World News and Business (43843) **11.30** Year in Review — Law and Order (11244) **1.30pm** CBS News (19640) **2.30** Those Were the Days (40263) **3.30** Talking with David Frost (1824) **4.00** World News and Business (9701) **4.30** Year in Review — Russia (9643) **5.00** Live at Five (4805) **6.30** 1994 in Sport (1060) **7.30** Year in Review — Law and Order (7244) **8.30** Year in Review — Russia (39992) **9.30** Target (80224) **11.30** CBS News (14496) **12.30am** ABC News (99935) **1.30** 1994 in Sport (79799) **2.30** Those Were the Days (24515) **3.30** Talking with David Frost (96732) **4.30** CBS News (99770) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (76255)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (6011350) **10.00 Flight of the Phoenix** (1965) (95506896) **12.20pm Beethoven** (1992) (415058) **2.00 Three Ninjas** (1992) (50621) **4.00 Late for Dinner** (1991) (1195) **6.00 Beethoven** (1992): As 12.10pm (59176) **7.30 Close-Up** (4398) **8.00 The Bodyguard** (1992) (36491350) **10.10 Kickboxer** (1989) (509896) **11.55 The Doctor** (1991) (69186805) **2.00am The Bodyguard** (1992): As 8pm (12835916) **4.05-5.35 Lethal Pursuit** (1987) (473003)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00pm The King of Comedy (1982) (32263) **8.00 Barbarella** (1967) (44008) **10.00-12.00 Dirty Harry** (1971) (96973)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Thunder in the Sun (1959) (6769263) **7.25 Peter Pan**: Animation (1713379) **8.20 The New Adventures of Robin Hood**: Cartoon (4047089) **9.15 The Man in the Iron Mask** (1980) (7299973) **10.10 Scooby Doo and the Reluctant Werewolf** (73696058) **12.00 Can-Can** (1960) (20412027) **2.10pm Gunsmoke V: One Man's Justice** (1993) (385824) **3.45 Aladdin** (1993): Animation (8286242) **4.35 Little Norse Prince Valiant** (4181534) **6.00 Missing Pieces** (1991): As 10.10am (78027) **8.00 Swing Kids** (1992) (40244) **10.00 The Player** (1992) (13205485) **12.05am Gladiator** (1992) (998409) **1.50 Body Language** (1992) (189225) **3.25-5.15 Over the Line** (1992) (36144225)

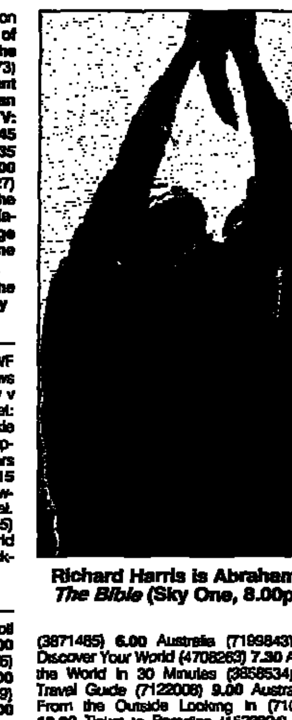
● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS
7.30am Soccer News (7832824) **7.45** WWF Mania (772911) **8.45** Soccer News (7290089) **9.00** Football: Manchester City v Blackburn Rovers (46089) **11.00** Cricket: Australia v England (656992) **1.30pm** Jackie Stewart (77224) **2.00** World Darts Championship, Live (909621) **5.00** WWF Superstars (1805) **6.00** Soccer News (669805) **6.15** Sports Classics (657060) **6.30** Jackie Stewart (4176) **7.00** Live Soccer Special. Nottingham Forest v Norwich City (634805) **10.00** Soccer News (153060) **10.15** World Darts Championship (7656737) **11.30** Cricket, Live: Australia v England (4708805)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Step Aerobics (63244) **8.00** Golf (44621) **10.00** Body Building (92756) **11.00** Football (72992) **12.00** Wrestling (10176) **1.00pm** Olympic Games (35973) **3.00** Speedworld (53244) **4.00** Nascar (72379) **5.00** Football (27824) **6.30** News (9244) **7.00** Olympic Magazine (82244) **8.00** Athletics (91992) **9.00** Boxing (11756) **10.00** Snooker (85843) **12.00-12.30am** News (51003)

SKY SOAP
8.00am Loving (1529008) **8.30** Peyton Place (1528379) **9.00** As the World Turns (8783398) **10.00** Guiding Light (8868060) **11.00-12.00** Another World (8888824)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 Discover Your World (1522195) **12.30pm** Kids Down Under (7181824) **1.00** Golf in Paradise (8882640) **1.30** Cooking in America (7180195) **2.00** American Adventurer (4704447) **2.30** Travel — Moscow (3877669) **3.00** Discover Your World (4716282) **3.30** The Way of Life (3872114) **4.00** Golf in Paradise (3851621) **4.30** Kids Down Under (3857805) **5.00** Travel — Moscow (4728027) **5.30** Cooking in America (3871485) **6.00** Australia (7199843) **7.00** Discover Your World (4708263) **7.30** Around the World in 30 Minutes (3858534) **8.00** Travel Guide (7122008) **9.00** Australia — From the Outside Looking In (7102244) **10.00** Ticket to Paradise (1523824) **10.30** Roads to Freedom (1509244) **11.00** Cooking in America (9177756) **11.30-12.00** The Way of Life — Columbia (4088485)



Richard Harris is Abraham in *The Bible* (Sky One, 8.00pm)

TLC
9.00am Craftwise (3488973) **9.30** Cooking with Kurma (4371553) **10.00** Parents Talking (8205350) **10.30** Only Human (7682089) **11.30** Discovering Psychology (8984447) **12.00** Extra Dimensions (2939737) **12.45pm** Draw with Don (85543534) **1.00** Cooking with Kurma (6461260) **1.30** Craftwise (4874640) **2.00** The Balinese Dance (53170553) **2.15** Encounters with Grief (22002008) **2.30** The Buzz (4091640) **3.00** Flowering Passions (6678114) **3.30-4.00** Furniture to Go (4003485)

UK GOLD
7.00am The Sullivans (9716337) **7.30** Neighbours (1333462) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3407008) **8.30** EastEnders (3406379) **9.00** The Bill (3480331) **9.30** Who Pays the Ferryman? (6976195) **10.30** Big Deal (46661640) **11.35** The Sullivans (11083911) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (3400195) **12.30pm** Neighbours (4384027) **1.00** EastEnders (9355138) **1.30** The Bill (4393398) **2.00** Potter (6668737) **2.30** Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin (4000398) **3.00** Knots Landing (6960621) **4.00** Dynasty (6909756) **5.00** Every Second Counts (8364553) **5.35** Top of the Pops (8479350) **5.55** Terry and June (6072244) **6.30** EastEnders (4092379) **7.00** Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin (6662553) **7.30** George and Mildred (4081263) **8.00** Potter (6649897) **8.30** Just Good Friends (6667008) **9.00** The Sweeney (5824114) **10.00** The Bill (3401824) **10.30** Top of the Pops (7370517) **11.10** Naked Video (2329534) **11.40** Dr Who (4897244) **12.10am** Triangle (7551680) **12.40** Campion (89021428) **1.45** Scotch 'n' Wry (1579751) **2.30** Shopping at Night

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Best of Droibee Time (29485) **7.00** Raitkan III (6936282) **7.15** Head to Head in 3D (3937195) **7.25** Garfield and Friends (7002089) **7.55** Saved by the Bell (8657244) **8.30** Super Mario Brothers (27992) **9.00** Zoo (3350282) **9.15** Cult Cartoons (8576756) **10.00** Swamp Thing (50379) **10.30** Round the Twist (47756) **11.00** Eek the Cat (98331) **11.30** Beakman's World (99060) **12.00** Stunt Dawgs (38008) **12.30pm** Bots Master (48973) **1.00** Pugwall's Summer (89379) **1.30** Degrassi Junior High (47244) **2.00** Ghostbusters (2244) **2.30** SuperDave (4195) **3.00** Tic Tac Toons (8689911) **3.15** Bobby's World (346485) **3.45** Head to Head in 3D (9668896) **4.00** The Bots Master (5447) **4.30-5.00** Saved by the Bell (4331)

NICKELODEON
7.00am Nick's Christmas Cracker (80911) **7.30** Denver the Last Dinosaur (76718) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (77973) **8.30** Rocko's Modern Life (76244) **9.00** Nick's Christmas Pick (90824) **9.30** Clarissa (33027) **10.00** Grimmy (50282) **10.30** Carmen Sandiego (96008) **11.00** Killer Tomatoes (54973) **11.30** Ren and Stimpy (65602) **12.00** Pee-Wee (70060) **12.30pm** Galaxy High School (37843) **1.00** Doug (89282) **1.30** Alvin (36114) **2.00** Denver (9060) **2.30** Speed Racer (1927) **3.00** Carmen Sandiego (8195) **3.30** Hey Dude! (5282) **4.00** Nick's Christmas Pick (1089) **4.30** Doug (1783) **5.00** Clarissa (9447) **6.00** Grimmy (1466) **6.30-7.00** Dracula (2718)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Nature Watch (4082992) **4.30** Valhalla (4088176) **5.00** The Dinosaurs! (6669468) **6.00** Beyond 2000 (4350060) **7.00** Pacifica — Tales from the South Seas (6660195) **7.30** Terra X (4069805) **8.00** Connections 2 (6679643) **8.30** The New Explorers (6658350) **9.00** Wings of the Red Star (5822756) **10.00** Into the Unknown (5825843) **11.00-12.00** Nancy Wake, Code Name (5211927)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Woman Hater (1948) (8212640) **2.00** thirtysomething (8200805) **3.00** My Three Sons (6665640) **3.30** The Beverly Hillbillies (4090911) **4.00** FILM: Virgin Island (1958) (6676756) **6.00** Death Valley Days (4096195) **6.30** Police Woman (4894060) **7.30** Honey West (4076331) **8.00** thirtysomething (5806718) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (6690008) **9.30** FILM. Gorilla at Large (1954) (9225282) **11.30-12.00** Hogan's Heroes (8298080)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (2742398) **7.00** Living (6340008) **8.00** Health UK (2287447) **8.30** The Truth About Women (2286718) **9.00** Eating Out (7747718) **9.35** Definition (6531282) **10.00** Trivia Trap (9289485) **10.30** Susan Powter (2299282) **11.00** Young and Restless (8341992) **12.00** Fashion (1899114) **12.35pm** Kilroy (9192669) **1.30** Family Matters (7280089) **2.00** Agony Hour (3283114) **3.00** Living (7660468) **3.45** Gladrags and Glamour (17324114) **4.00** Infatuation UK (5670195) **4.30** Definition (18897992) **4.55** Delia Smith (4747114) **5.30** Kate and Allie (5850331) **6.00** Material World (5657244) **6.30** The New Mr and Mrs Show (5671824) **7.00** Living (9026008) **8.00** Young and Restless (9035756) **9.00** FILM: Stop at Nothing (1990): Courtroom drama (90450466) **10.55** Short Shorts (5800896) **11.00** The Susan Powter Show (1469640) **11.30-12.00** Infatuation UK (9288669)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm The Adventures of Tinan (6824) **5.30** Boogies Diner (8911) **6.00** African Skies (5824) **6.30** Through The Keyhole (6176) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (8060) **7.30** The Wonder Years (5060) **8.00** Darling Buds of May (46466) **9.00** Moonlighting (26602) **10.00** Catchphrase (39737) **10.30** Tintin (48485) **11.00** Lou Grant (99758) **12.00** Rhoda (29635) **12.30pm** Big Brother Jake (62645) **1.00** GP (22225) **1.30** Trivial Pursuit (66157) **2.00** Moonlighting (13751) **3.00** Lou Grant (37480) **4.00** Rhoda (87799) **4.30-5.00** Big Brother Jake (57490)

MTV
5.00am Awake on the Wildside (47916) **6.30** The Grind (61485) **7.00** Awake on the Wildside (52350) **8.00** VJ Ingo (154244) **11.00** Soul (70621) **12.00** Greatest Hits (69466) **1.00pm** Afternoon Mix (963669) **3.30** Report (8311909) **3.45** Cinematic (7866814) **4.00** News (6762553) **4.15** 3 from 1 (6752176) **4.30** Dial MTV (8089) **5.00** Music Non-Stop (79027) **6.30** Sports (8534) **7.00** Greatest Hits (39176) **8.00** The Eagles Special (96373) **9.30** Beavis (80195) **10.00** Report (962805) **10.15** Cinematic (950060) **10.30** News (703602) **10.45** 3 from 1 (731485) **11.00** The End? (90114) **1.00am** Soul (48312) **2.00** The Grind (65577) **2.30** Videos

VH-1
7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage (8881911) **9.00** Café (8270718) **12.00** The Bridge (3223602) **1.30pm** Ten of the Best (9673350) **2.30** Heart and Soul (9338718) **3.30** Into the Music (3041927) **6.00** Prime Cuts (7166973) **7.00** VH-1 for You: Xmas Special (7115718) **8.00** Rock (7124466) **9.00** Ten of the Best (7104602) **10.00** The Bridge (8786244) **11.30** Today's Top Five (4080824) **12.00** The Nightly (91145[illegible]) Ten of the Best (4403954) **3.00-7.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE
Country music for 6am to 7pm incl 6.00 Saturday Nite Dance Ranch 6.00 Big Ticket

TV ASIA
6.00am Persian Dawn (16911) **7.00** Asian Morning (43718) **8.30** Buniyaad (21718) **9.00** Tamil FILM. Andha Oru Nimidam (896718) **12.00** Ghar (54534) **1.00pm** Serial (76805) **1.30** Yugantar (74398) **2.00** Hindi FILM: Deewana Mujsa Nahin (710824) **5.00** TVA and You (3350) **5.30-6.00** Buniyaad (2737) **7.00** Doop Chaon (2896) **7.30** India Show (1602) **8.00** News (9824) **8.30** Des Pardes with Asif (8331) **9.00** Bollywood Plus (74737) **9.30** Pakistani FILM (791379) **12.00** Asian Morning (157225) **1.35am** Sight and Sound (31216848)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
Theme: Runnin' All Night
7.00pm They Drive By Night (1940) (46819911) **8.45 The Last Run** (1971) (69378553) **10.30 The Moonshine War** (1970) (73225485) **12.20am The St Louis Kid** (1934) (86087935) **1.40 Racket Busters** (1938) (84119995) **3.05-5.00 The Last Run** (1971): As 8.45pm (58094190)

CNN/QVC
CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel

POWER PLAYERS 30
GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON INVESTORS AND UTILITY TAKEOVERS

BUSINESS

CITY BLUES 30
MICHAEL CLARK LOOKS BACK AT A DEPRESSING 1994

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 1994

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Treasury and City agree on steady recovery

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will continue to enjoy a virtuous combination of steady growth with low inflation in 1995, according to more than 40 economic forecasters tracked by the Treasury.

The average estimate for growth next year is 3.2 per cent for non-City forecasters and 3.3 per cent for City firms. This is in line with the Treasury's 3.25 per cent. There is also a strong consensus on the underlying inflation rate, with City and independent forecasters going for an average 2.9 per cent, the same as the Treasury's six wise men. The Treasury is somewhat more optimistic, however, looking for underlying inflation to be only 2.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of next year.

There is a broad measure of agreement over the shape of the recovery next year, with exports expected to continue to lead the way but the consumer sector remaining weak as real disposable income growth remains low. This is regarded as very healthy for the sustainability of the recovery in the longer term but worrying for the Government, which will continue to look in vain for a vote-winning "feel-good" factor.

HSBC Markets said: "It's fast becoming a cliche to argue that the economic outlook for the next couple of years is the best for a generation, but it is true. Fast growth, low inflation, current account surplus, rising sterling — what more could the Government want? Popularity?"

Geoffrey Dicks, of NatWest Markets, said: "For the consumer, the unpalatable conclusion is that no early respite is in view. For the economy, the rebalancing in demand, which was hugely successful in 1994, has another year to run."

One welcome fruit of weak consumer spending and strength in the economy's productive areas has been a dramatic improvement in Britain's trading position and this — with the caveat that many economists are wary of the accuracy of trade statistics — is expected to continue.

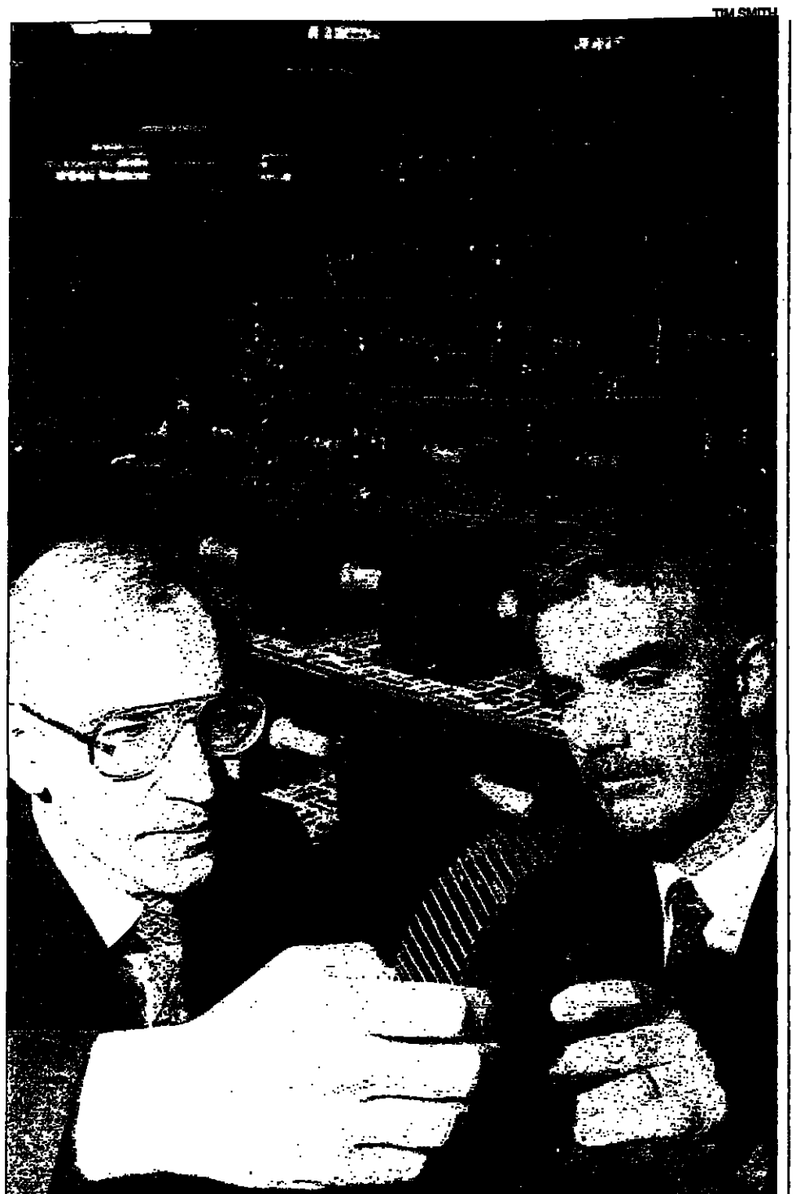
Forecasters and the Treasury widely agree that Britain's current account, which was in surplus for the first time for nearly eight years in the third quarter, will end 1995 with a deficit of only about £3.5 billion. Indeed, some City forecasters expect the current account to be in surplus for 1995 as a whole. HSBC Markets is looking for a surplus of £4 billion.

Exports are expected to grow by between 6 and 7 per cent while imports will expand by about 5 per cent. The consumer sector will remain weak, helping to limit the import penetration that has characterised British economic recoveries in the past. City and independent forecasters expect consumer spending to grow 2.3 per cent while the Treasury expects 2.5 per cent.

Real personal disposable income is expected to rise only 1.5 per cent, leaving a proportion of spending dependent on renewed borrowing and a fall in the savings ratio. This is by no means certain given the renewed rise in the savings ratio evident in the third quarter National Accounts figures published recently.

But there is also a broad consensus that tax cuts will be announced in the November 1995 Budget, which should help consumer demand to recover in 1996 and in the run-up to the election. The City, independent forecasters and the Treasury are very close in their estimates for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in 1995-96, with most forecasts clustered around the Treasury's own £21.5 billion.

Average forecasts for unemployment are for a headline total of about 2.2 million by the end of next year. But some of the City's monetarists — Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research, David Smith of Williams de Broe and Peter Warburton of Robert Fleming — expect 2.4-2.6 million.



TIM SMITH

Chris Cook, left, joint chief executive of David Brown, the Huddersfield gear maker, and Chris Prideaux, managing director of Brown's Radicon subsidiary, announce a £40 million contract to supply Falk Corporation of America with geared motors

Japanese banks slide on higher loan write-offs

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

JAPAN'S banks, struggling for years to cope with huge non-performing loans from the last property and stock market boom, are now taking bolder steps to count the cost.

Profits of 150 banks fell an average 17 per cent to 790 billion yen (£5.1 billion) in the six months to September 30, the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan said yesterday, as banks took bolder steps to write bad loans off their books. The writedowns totalled more than 2 billion yen, 70 per cent up on a year earlier.

Profit falls were much bigger among the country's biggest banks, which financed much of the boom. The country's 11 city banks saw profits tumble 40.7 per cent to 233 billion yen for the six months.

The news, part of the year-end sorting out before Japan's long New Year holiday, was greeted with relief rather than dismay. It indicates that the banking system has recovered sufficiently to take a more realistic attitude without endangering its solvency ratios.

There was little reaction on the Tokyo stock market yesterday, where futures buying helped shares rise for the second day. The Nikkei index rose 93.22 points (0.47 per cent) to 19,726.75 after a 1.51 per cent rise on Thursday. Friday was a holiday. The company trading year ends tomorrow.

More ammunition for trade tensions with America is likely when Japan's Fair Trade Commission takes further action against nine electronics firms, which have been accused of rigging bids to supply water utilities to share orders between them. Japanese newspapers say the anti-monopoly watchdog will shortly file criminal charges against firms and their executives. US trade negotiators have long accused Japanese industry of rigging contracts, particularly in the construction industry.

Japanese and American negotiators are to meet in London today in an attempt to restart talks on other bilateral trade issues, which have been stalled since September. They are likely to centre on cars and car parts, where there are long-standing US complaints, and the multimedia industry.

☐ In Paris, one of the few European bourses open yesterday, the share index gained 0.9 per cent in thin trading.

Pensions blow for part-timers

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE union leaders are accusing the Government today of denying part-time workers a bonus in their pensions under a provision in the Government's Pensions Bill.

The Trades Union Congress has analysed the Government's proposed legislation to reform UK pensions law in the wake of the Maxwell pension scandal and the need to equalise pension ages, and it says that the move will have a major impact on the pensions of part-time employees.

Part-time workers believed they would be able to obtain pension entitlements for their previous work following a ruling by the European Court of Justice that they had suffered sex discrimination at work when they were prevented from joining occupational pension schemes. The court ruled that employees should be able to join such schemes from April 1978. Business leaders are concerned about the cost of meeting such retrospective provision.

The TUC says that under Clause 59 of the Bill, which is due to receive its second reading in the Commons at the end of next month, the right to claim back pension rights has been limited to two years by incorporating pensions within Equal Pay Act procedures which have an automatic two-year limit.

The TUC says the measure was not mentioned by the Government when it announced the Bill. John Monks, the general secretary, said the clause had been "buried away" as a sneaky way of depriving part-timers of their rights.

Brokers take on direct insurers

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 800 independent insurance brokers have come together as shareholders in a new company that hopes to claw back business lost to direct insurance writers such as Direct Line.

Broker Direct, which already has ten insurance companies keen to forge partnerships, plans to raise between £50 million and £60 million.

Andrew Paddick, Director-General of the Institute of Insurance Brokers, said Broker Direct is the response to a sharp fall in the amount of business being conducted through brokers. Broker Direct believes its broker shareholders will give it a captive customer base of up to £500 million of business and that it can compete via lower costs and flexible commissions.

Mr Paddick said the company will start negotiations with prospective partners and other equity investors next month. Several international banks, ten insurance companies and a stockbroking firm which could bring in institutional investors are already interested. He said: "We have been approached by some insurance companies who have direct operations in place but are in trouble. They have the premises and staff but not enough business. They could be possible partners."

Broker Direct expects to get DTI authorisation early in the new year and plans to start writing motor business in June and household insurance soon after.

Insider dealing curbs imminent

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Stock Exchange is to publish proposals to maintain orderly markets and to combat insider dealings next month, emphasising its tougher line on price-sensitive information leaking into the market.

This month the Exchange and the Takeover Panel forced the early announcement of three merger deals because of intense stock market speculation and unusually high volumes of trading. SG Warburg and Morgan Stanley partly attributed the collapse of their merger talks to their being forced into the glare of publicity.

A Warburg source said: "The dynamics change under the spotlight of the open market." Morgan Stanley felt that if it had been possible to continue "friendly" talks, agreement might have been reached.

The Exchange acted after 1.155 million shares were traded between 8.30am and 9.35am when it made the prices "indicative", so that market-makers did not have to deal at prices quoted on trading screens. That is one method by which the Exchange plans to signal to the market that an announcement is likely.

The increased use of such indicative pricing is expected to form part of the Exchange's orderly market rules. A similar technique was used when shares in Portals, the security paper-maker, surged. Portals then said it was in talks with De La Rue, and the two sides agreed a £672 million deal two weeks later.

The Takeover Panel forced Trafalgar House to signal its intention to bid for Northern Electric after Northern's share price had risen sharply.

Merchant banks spread the pain of job cuts



Sir Chips: no cuts

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Christmas jobs massacre expected by staff at the City's merchant banks and securities houses has failed to materialise. Instead, there has been a steady trickle of job cuts as firms such as Goldman Sachs, SG Warburg, NatWest Markets and Yamaichi International have quietly responded to poor market conditions.

Ralph Grayson, a headhunter with NB Securities, said firms "have learnt their lesson from the last time when we had all those horror stories. Most know that the way to do it is by a steady and slow trickle." He predicted that they would continue to "trim round the edges" rather than cutting whole departments.

Yamaichi started its cull this month, in response to difficult market conditions. It is believed to have cut about 30 jobs, with redundancies spread across all departments.

Goldman shed 86 jobs in October and November, representing 5 per cent of its European workforce. In an attempt to play them down, the cuts were spread over several weeks. Staff are gloomy because a further 10 per cent of jobs, or around 900 worldwide, are to go early in the new year. The move is part of an attempt to reduce costs after volatile market conditions sent profits tumbling from about $2.3 billion in 1993 to about $550 million in the year to November 30.

Goldman is following the example set by Lehman Brothers in its London office, implementing tight cost controls and targeting expenses as well as job numbers. A Lehman spokeswoman said the bank was not planning job cuts. Since January, its London head count has increased from 1,298 to 1,354.

Warburg is re-examining its costs and restructuring management after a fall in first half profits to the end of September, from £148.8 million to £62.5 million. Since then, ten equities jobs have been cut. The staff, who are already feeling sensitive after the collapse of merger talks with Morgan Stanley, face new year redundancies in the fixed-income division after the appointment of David Burnett, a Warburg troubleshooter, as the new division head. The division, which has 400 staff, has been loss-making for the past nine months.

NatWest Markets cut 12 fixed-income jobs in its bond division last month.

Some firms are refusing to make cuts despite falling profits. Sir Chips Keswick, deputy chairman of Hambros, said last month that there would be no staff cuts in the bond division.

The most positive news comes from Deutsche Bank and Morgan Grenfell, where recruitment is expected early next year as they attempt to build up an equities business in London.

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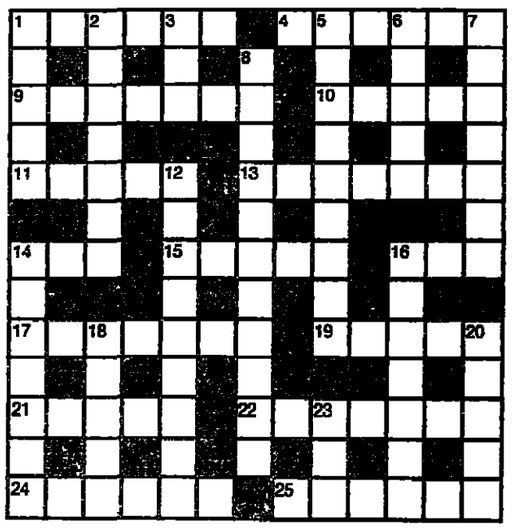
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 354

ACROSS
1 Rarely (6)
4 Be in profusion (6)
9 Bony, awkward (7)
10 King with golden touch (5)
11 Lead weight on line (5)
13 Jean Antoine —. French rococo painter (7)
14 Sound measurement unit (more often "deci-") (3)
15 Brutish person (after Swift) (5)
16 Tiny piece (3)
17 Of weddings (7)
19 Of sound (5)
21 Homeric epic (5)
22 God of the sea (7)
24 Decline (2,4); Oriental warehouse (6)
25 Carved likeness (6)

DOWN
1 Acid: keen (5)
2 Hoax (3-4)
3 Proverbially wise bird (3)
5 Conceited (9)
6 More than is deserved (5)
7 Offensive loathing (7)
8 Indicate limit of toleration (4,3,4)
12 Glazed alcove projecting from room (3,6)
14 Bird: decorative flags (7)
16 Ceremonial grand meal (7)
18 Worked assiduously: travelled (5)
20 Crinkly fabric: pancake (5)
23 Tap lightly: knob (of butter) (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 353

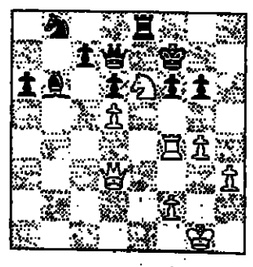
ACROSS: 1 Shovel 5 Bald 8 Alto 9 Vaunting 10 Parallel 11 Brew 12 Plaque 14 Canute 16 Nova 18 Greenery 20 Instinct 21 Glad 22 Germ 23 Rotten

DOWN: 2 Holdall 3 Viola 4 Level pegging 5 Bath bun 6 Lance 7 Public sector 13 Quantum 15 Terrace 17 Ounce 19 Night

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Over the festive season, we are celebrating with positions from the games of Alexander Alekhine. This position is from the game Alekhine - Blaut, Antwerp 1923. White has sacrificed a piece and now breaks through the remaining black defences. Can you see how he continued?



Solution, page 30
Raymond Keene, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CLAVUS
a. A witch's cloak
b. A broken vase
c. A pain in the forehead

FARTHINGALE
a. A small bird
b. A high-pitched tune
c. A wide-seated chair

GROISE
a. A stain
b. A container for water
c. A hard worker

ANAGLYPTA
a. Thick wallpaper
b. A rocky surface
c. A cloud formation

Answers on page 30

هذا من الأصل